TUESDAY
February 11, 2025

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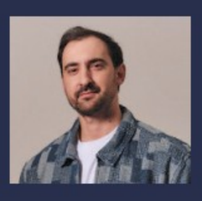

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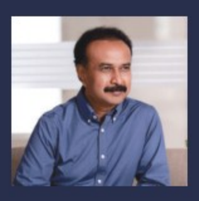

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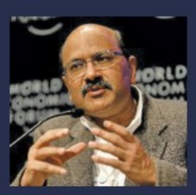

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For event details

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BIJAPUR ENCOUNTER

Key Maoist leader was among 31 killed

NEWS » PAGE 18

WINDOW FOR TALKS

China lays down terms for return of Dalai Lama

WORLD » PAGE 20

MULTIPLE AGENDA

PM arrives in France, to co-chair AI summit

NEWS » PAGE 17

PRIVACY QUESTIONED

The problem of regulating live-in relationships

UCC gives state control over personal choices

OPINION » PAGE 15

SECRET OF SUCCESS

Domestic game time has helped: Jadeja

SPORT » PAGE 21

NEARBY

Concerns raised over Bill

BENGALURU
The issues of delimitation that will arise from decentralisation of the BBMP under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill 2024, the usage of a Kannada word instead of 'Greater', and conducting elections for BBMP were some of the important suggestions provided by citizens at public consultation meetings on the Bill. » PAGE 3

Metro fare hike sparks worries

BENGALURU
Commuters are expressing growing concerns that the recent hike in Namma Metro fares will push more people to use personal vehicles, exacerbating the city's already severe traffic congestion.

» PAGE 6

BJP scouts for new CM in Manipur after Biren's exit

Three Ministers, Speaker among the contenders for the top post; State Congress says it will oppose move to impose President's Rule, calls for 'democratically elected government' to safeguard State

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

A day after Nongthombam Biren Singh resigned as the Chief Minister of restive Manipur, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday began scouting for his successor.

Sambit Patra, in-charge of the BJP in Manipur, held separate closed-door meetings with each of the party's MLAs – barring seven belonging to the Kuki-Zo community – in the State's capital Imphal on Monday. He also met the MLAs of the Naga People's Front, an ally of the BJP, Manipur's security advisor Kuldiep Singh, and the Hill Areas Committee chairperson Dinganglung Gangmei.

Neither Mr. Patra nor the MLAs shared details on the one-on-one meeting.

"Our discussion was focused on reconciliation and bringing back peace in Manipur," Minister for Municipal Administration, Housing and Urban Development Yumnam Khemchand told journalists, insisting that selecting the new Chief Minister was the prerogative of the party's central leadership.

"We accepted the decision (on Mr. Singh's resignation) taken by our high command. We will abide by any decision that follows," he said, when asked about the likely candidates for the top post.

Mr. Khemchand is said to be one of the contenders for the Chief Minister's job. The others are Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata, Public Works Department Minister Konthoujam Govindas, Education Minister Thounaojam Basantakumar, and MLA Thokchom Radheshyam – the last two being former Indian Police Service (IPS) officers.

Meanwhile, the State Congress said it would oppose any move to impose President's Rule in Manipur or to place the Assembly under suspended animation. "We want a democratically elected popular government in the larger interest of safeguarding democracy in the State," party president Keisham Meghachandra said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16
MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGE 16

What next?

BJP has initiated the next course of action after N. Biren Singh resigned as Manipur Chief Minister

- State BJP in-charge Sambit Patra holds separate meetings with the party's MLAs, barring seven Kuki-Zo members
- He has also met MLAs of Naga People's Front and State security advisor Kuldiep Singh
- Manipur Congress says it would oppose any move to impose President's Rule in the State
- Security has been tightened in Imphal, especially in sensitive areas such as Sanjenthong, Singjamei, and Kangla Gate

Trump proposes tariffs on steel, aluminium imports

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has said the U.S. will impose 25% tariffs on all steel and aluminium imports, including from Canada and Mexico, as well as other import duties later in the week.

"Any steel coming into the United States is going to have a 25% tariff," he told presspersons on Sunday on Air Force One as he flew from Florida to New Orleans to attend the Super Bowl. When asked about aluminium, he responded, "aluminium, too" will be subject to the trade penalties.

Reciprocal tariffs

Mr. Trump also reaffirmed that he would announce "reciprocal tariffs" – "probably Tuesday or Wednesday" – meaning that the U.S. would impose import duties on products in cases in which another country has levied duties on U.S. goods.

"If they are charging us 130% and we're charging them nothing, it's not going to stay that way," he said.

Mr. Trump has said he sees import taxes as tools to force concessions on issues such as immigration but also as a source of revenue to help close the government's budget deficit.

INDIA STAYS STOIC
» PAGE 19

Metal merchandise

U.S. imports most of its aluminium and steel from Canada, China and Mexico. Tables show imports in $ billion (2018-2023)

Aluminium and articles made of them

1	Canada	$57.3bn
2	China	$18.5bn
3	Mexico	$9.6bn
4	UAE	$8.9bn
5	India	$4.5bn

Iron & steel and articles made of them

1	China	$85.1bn
2	Canada	$71.4bn
3	Mexico	$58.4bn
..		
9	India	$15.6bn

India may offer lower duties to pacify Trump

NEW DELHI
With Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to hold bilateral talks with U.S. President Donald Trump this week, which will likely include intense parleys on tariffs, India could offer fresh cuts in import duties on items of U.S. interest, such as the uniquely American pecan nuts grown in its southwestern States. » PAGE 18

Aero India is the Kumbh of research, says Rajnath Singh

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described Aero India as "the Kumbh of research", as the biennial air show got under way at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka, Bengaluru, on Monday.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the show's 15th edition, Mr. Singh said, "While Maha Kumbh is the Kumbh of introspection, Aero India is the Kumbh of research. While the Maha Kumbh focuses on internal strength, Aero India centres on external strength. While the Maha Kumbh showcases the culture of India, Aero India will display the power of India." He added that this edition of Asia's biggest aerospace and defence exhibition will showcase, over the next five days, India's aerial prowess and indigenous cutting-edge innovations alongside state-of-the-art products of global aerospace companies.

Innovations galore

The Defence Minister said that between the last edition of the Aero India and now, India had come up with many high-tech products such as the Astra Missile, New Generation Akash Missile, Autonomous Underwater Vehicle, Unmanned Surface Vessel, and the Pinaka Guided Rocket, which were being manufactured within the country.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16
MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGES 7 & 17

Holding formation: The Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team of the Indian Air Force perform during the inauguration of Aero India 2025 at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Why didn't Governor inform T.N. about his objections to Bills: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned the long "silence" of the Tamil Nadu Governor, spanning months and years, to the State's Bills, culminating in his withholding of consent and the reference of at least 10 Bills to the President for consideration.

Addressing Attorney-General of India R. Venkataramani, who appeared for Governor R.N. Ravi, Justice J.B. Pardiwala said the Governor definitely had "something in his mind" when he withheld consent to the Bills sent to him for assent by the State government. Yet, the Governor did not communicate what was irking him about the proposed laws. "So, he goes quiet for one or two years... He withholds consent... Then suddenly he says I have referred them to the President," observed Justice Pardiwala, accompanied by Justice R. Mahadevan on the Bench.

Mr. Venkataramani said the Governor had earlier communicated to the State his objections regarding the constitution of the search-cum-selection committee for the appointment of Vice-Chancellors of State universities. The Governor-Chancellor had sought the inclusion of the University Grants Commission Chairperson's nominee in the search-cum-selection committee. The State Bills, passed subsequently, sought to remove the Governor, who was also *ex-officio* Chancellor of these universities, from the Vice-Chancellor appointment process.

"Then why did you [Governor] keep silent about the Bills? They [the State] would have probably agreed with you"

JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA
Supreme Court Judge

"Then why did you keep silent about the Bills? Why did you not tell the State government about your reservations if you found them repugnant?... They [the State] would have probably agreed with you...," Justice Pardiwala reacted to the submission from the top law officer.

'Not a formality'

The judge, turning Mr. Venkataramani's submissions that the Governor had earlier raised objections about the Vice-Chancellors' appointment process on its head, said that then the Assembly's reconsideration of the 10 Bills at its special sitting on November 18, 2023, would not have been just an "empty formality". "The Assembly would have known what his objections were," Justice Pardiwala remarked.

The court reserved the case for judgment.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16

Hamas to stop hostage swap over Israel's 'deal violation'

Reuters
JERUSALEM

Hamas on Monday announced it would stop releasing Israeli hostages until further notice over what the Palestinian militant group said were Israeli violations of the ceasefire agreement.

The unexpected announcement comes amid growing doubts over an already fragile ceasefire even as families of the Israeli hostages urge the government to stick to the deal and Gazans try to start rebuilding their lives in the shattered enclave.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 20

Bangladesh cracks down on Hasina loyalists; 1,300 held

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladeshi police said on Monday that more than 1,300 people have been arrested in a sweeping crackdown dubbed 'Operation Devil Hunt', targeting gangs allegedly connected to the ousted regime of Sheikh Hasina.

Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, head of the Interior Ministry in the interim government that took over after Ms. Hasina was ousted in the August 2024 student-led protests, has vowed the operations will continue "until we uproot the devils".

Police spokesperson Inamul Haque Sagar said operations continue and "1,308 people were arrested across the country" after its launch on Saturday.

The security operations come after widespread unrest earlier this month.

The government said operations began after gangs "linked to the fallen autocratic regime attacked a group of students, leaving them severely injured".

The government has tasked a special "command centre" team to "oversee the efforts of the law enforcement agencies", Shafiqul Alam, press advisor to interim leader Muhammad Yunus said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16

Knife-wielding man attacks five people in Indiranagar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police said the criminal has been identified as Kadamba, who was on the rowdy-sheeter list at the Indiranagar Police Station

Panic gripped residents of Indiranagar after a knife-wielding man went on a slashing spree attacking five people, including two panipuri vendors, on Saturday night. All the five sustained injuries, but are out of danger.

A message on social media and WhatsApp groups, which claimed there was a serial killer on the loose in the area and asked people to be alert, went viral the next day.

However, the police have clarified that there is no serial killer on the loose in the area and the criminal has been identified as Kadamba, who is in his mid-twenties and who was on the rowdy-sheeter list at the Indiranagar Police station. Four special teams have been formed to track down the suspect.

"A total of five people were stabbed by the man, probably in an inebriated state. We have registered five FIRs, and have booked him for attempt to murder and robbery. We have identified him and efforts are on to track him down," D. Devaraj, Deputy Commissioner of Police (East Division), Bengaluru City Police said.

The accused attacked four people with a knife in a matter of less than half an hour between 9.30 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Saturday night and later around 2.30 a.m., attacked a bike taxi rider, snatched his bike and fled from the area, police have now said.

I Change Indiranagar, a federation of Residents Welfare Associations of Indiranagar, also took to social media asking residents not to panic and assuring them that a serial killer was not on the loose in the area.

RELATED REPORT ON
» PAGE 2

Rohit — breaking the shackles of self-doubt in typical 'Hitman' fashion

After a series of international outings with little to show, the skipper found form with a stunning hundred in Cuttack; this bodes well for the Men in Blue, whose Champions Trophy campaign gets underway in 10 days

R. Kaushik

K.R. DEEPAK

It's impossible to even venture into imagining what Rohit Sharma must have gone through over the last four months. What started off as one low score mushroomed into two, then four, then a half-dozen. His form became an issue of national debate; every press conference, understandably, focused on the lack of runs. It came to such a pass that, unprecedentedly, Rohit sat himself out of the decisive Sydney Test at the start of the year, believing his form as it was then didn't warrant a place in the playing XI.

Throughout this depressing phase, the 37-year-old put on a brave exterior. He wasn't feisty or combative, lacing his answers with typical humour - his closest friends will tell you that no one is more capable of laughing at one's misfortunes without rancour - but one could see that he was hurting. Not because his place in the side or his position as leader was under threat, never mind the scrutiny, but because he wasn't pulling his weight as senior batter and captain, in that order. Or maybe not in that order.

There are times when, no matter how hard one tries, the stars align in such a way as to defeat the best-laid plans, to scuttle the best of intentions. Rohit left no stone unturned in his bid to rediscover his rhythm; he hit the nets uncompromisingly, he returned to Ranji Trophy cricket for Mumbai after several years in an effort to find run-making ways and to serve the side largely responsible for where he is today. With absolutely nothing to show.

Strong character

Rohit is a strong character, as one needs to be to thrive in the cauldron of unforgiving competitive sport. His pleasant exterior and a ready smile effectively mask steely inner determination and conformity to the high standards he has set for himself in white-ball cricket for over a dozen years, and in Test cricket since his elevation as opener in October 2019. As skipper, he believes in leading from the front, in setting the example so that there is no need for words and oral exhortations to his teammates to fall in line. These last four months must have been shattering, though at no stage did he question himself, question his ability, question whether the sands of time were running out on him.

Sometimes - actually, more often than one would think - bad things happen to good people. But then, the stars realign and good things happen to good people, too. As it transpired at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack on Sunday night, in the second of three One-Day Internationals against England.

Rohit's ten previous international hits, nine in Tests and the other in the first ODI last week in Nagpur, had produced a mere 70 runs, a highest of 18 and seven single-digit efforts, leaving his most die-hard fans wondering if... With the Champions Trophy a little over a week away, this was anything but ideal. The confidence that a return to 50-over cricket, which allows Rohit to be himself more than any other format, would trigger an instant turnaround had been dented in Nagpur where, like in Pune and Mumbai and Adelaide and Brisbane and Melbourne, his first mistake was destined to be his last.

Where others might have despaired, Rohit refused to be shackled in self-doubt. True, there would have been the inevitable gremlins - the Hitman is as human as any of us, never mind the sobriquet that paints the picture of a cold-blooded assassin (of bowling units and nothing else) - but to his credit, he didn't allow them to germinate or consume them. He was seized of the need to arrest the slide, maybe even obsessed with that, but somehow, as he has done successfully over the years, he kept the emotion out of the equation, understanding that red mist and white-line fever have never been his go-to options in his 17 and a half years in top-flight cricket.

Near-perfect time

There is no such thing as the right moment to rediscover one's mojo, but this was quite close to the perfect time, with India's first Champions Trophy outing ten days away. The target was steep, 305, but if India got there, plenty of reward lay in store, including a seventh successive ODI home series triumph against the 2019 World Cup champions. 305 would take some getting, but it's not a tally as intimidating as, say, even a decade back. Rohit could afford to take his time, if he so desired, because as history testifies, he is so effortlessly capable of bridging the gap between runs scored and balls faced, given the rich array of strokes at his disposal.

The Rohit of a half-decade back might have started carefully, if not circumspectly, got a few on the board and then decided to tee off, but that is not the Rohit of the last three years or thereabouts. A conscious move to take the fight to the opposition has been the calling card almost from when he was made the all-format captain in early 2022, and any other approach would have been out of character. Understandable, certainly, but not in keeping with the aggressive avatar the world has come to know and admire.

Whether Rohit toyed with the temptation of changing tack isn't clear, but if there was any temptation at all, he swept it out of his mind space comprehensively. In just the second over of the chase, he bared his hand when he charged Gus Atkinson, an attempted aerial drive down the straight field skewing off the outer half of the bat to the point fence. One-bounce four. Hey, maybe the tide was turning just a bit. Maybe, the cricketing Gods had decided they had tried him enough, tested his resilience and patience. Maybe, they were pleased with what he had done when the drought spilled over from one innings to another, one country to another, one continent to another.

Whatever the reason, that four was the trigger for the carnage that followed. Atkinson's next delivery was smeared over long-on for six and in the over that followed, Rohit deposited the first ball he faced from Saqib Mahmood over long-off, charging the bowler and reinvoking a template that had served him so outstandingly well in both the limited-overs World Cups split by seven months.

In the stands, they went nuts. If there has been one constant in these four or so months, it's been the support of the fans, the energy coursing through their veins, the oh-so-visible desire to see Rohit return to form, the goodwill and the prayers of the average fan. It's a far and welcome cry from the days when heroes were installed and brought down on a whim and a fancy.

K.R. DEEPAK

In the dressing-room, there was a frisson. The sense that something special was on the cards, that the Hitman was back, swatting aside the impostor who had slipped into his body for so long.

Out in the middle, there was apprehension, a feeling of foreboding. England feared they had prodded a sleeping giant and there would be a price to pay. They were singularly clueless from staunching the bleeding, not a trickle but an unchecked spurt from different parts, facilitated by a broadsword here, a rapier there.

Shubman Gill wasn't just an admiring bystander, but he knew his captain was on to a good thing. He knew that his job wasn't to compete but complement. Not even a 35-minute interruption when one of the six light towers decided to act up had disturbed his skipper's concentration, therefore it was incumbent upon him not to throw a spanner in the works. Gill played his part beautifully and was rewarded with enjoying the entertainment from the best seat in the town.

Entertainment it most certainly was. Rohit brought up his 50 in 30 deliveries, his 32nd ODI century in 76. He didn't so much as stutter through the nervous nineties as race through it, reaching three figures with his seventh six, shimmying down the track to cart leg-spinner Adil Rashid way over long-off. As he accepted batting partner Shreyas Iyer's warm embrace with equanimity, you wondered how this man had failed to score for these many innings. 'These many' might have only been ten, but they felt like a lifetime. As they must have to Rohit too, despite his outward calm.

There was no extravagant celebration, no leap in the air, no punch of the fist, no furious bat-waving, no blood-curdling scream to liberate any pent-up emotions. To most of the rest, it might have signalled the end of a barren run but to Rohit, it must have been further reiteration of the quality nestled in his strong frame. It must have been vindication of the processes he followed, justification of his faith and that of his colleagues in the permanence of his class. Nothing more, nothing less. To Rohit, the 32nd ton wasn't an end in itself, just the means to a potentially glorious chapter in the desert sands of Dubai.

This century took Rohit to outright third in the list of centuries across formats for India in international cricket, ahead of Rahul Dravid (48). Only Sachin Tendulkar (100) and Virat Kohli (81) lie in the distance, neither of them catchable. Rohit will not lose sleep over it, nor will he gloat at moving to sole No. 3, because that's not his style. He won't celebrate having breezed past Chris Gayle to No. 2 in the list of ODI six-hitters, nor will it truly register that he is just 14 sixes short of sending Shahid Afridi's all-time record of 351 into oblivion. He will leave that to the others; for him, it's about making a difference and after a brief lull, that's precisely the promise his 90-ball 119, 12 fours and seven sixes, has evoked.

THE GIST

- The stars finally aligned for Rohit, who barely put a foot wrong in his shellacking of the England bowlers in the second ODI
- Not even a 35-minute interruption due to floodlight failure disturbed the skipper's composure and concentration
- The 37-year-old barely celebrated crossing multiple milestones, instead choosing to remain calm and let his bat do the talking

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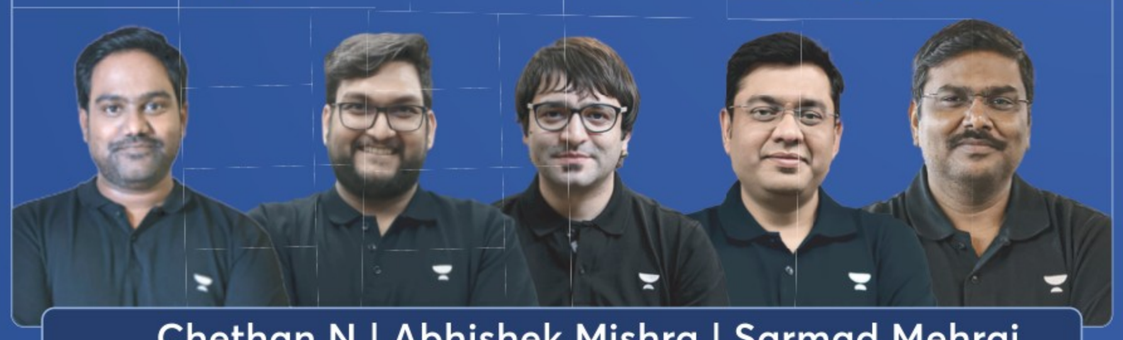

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J BG-BGE

Man went on a slashing spree without provocation

Analysing footage from multiple CCTV cameras in the area, the Indiranagar police identified the serial slasher as a former rowdy sheeter, Kadamba, a resident of Jogupalya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As Saturday night was coming to a close and street-side *chaat* vendors were winding down for the day, a man wearing a red T-shirt, white trousers, and a black cap, turned up on the busy 100 Feet Road. In less than half an hour, he had slashed the throats of four persons with a knife, leaving the entire neighbourhood in panic.

The first incident occurred at 9.30 p.m. The man with a knife in his hand confronted 19-year-old Jaswanth on a scooter. The accused forcefully hopped onto the scooter and asked him to move. When Jaswanth refused to take a right turn as directed, the accused slashed his throat and ran away.

Ten minutes later, the accused approached Deepak Kumar, a roadside *pani puri* vendor asking him for the snack. When Deepak said it was over and he was closing the stall, the accused waited for customers to leave and then slashed his neck and escaped.

After 10 minutes, the accused appeared before Thammaiah, another *pani puri* vendor, and slashed his neck, when he was asked to pay for the snack.

Kadamba.

He also similarly attacked a security guard Mahesh over trivial reasons. All four attacks happened before 10 p.m.

All the four victims suffered injuries in their neck; they were immediately rushed to nearby private hospitals. A senior city police official said that all the four suffered major injuries, but were fortunately "out of danger".

At around 2.30 a.m., the same attacker waylaid Adil Ameer Sab, 24, a bike taxi driver and demanded to be dropped at K.R. Puram railway station. When Sab said he was returning home and couldn't do the trip, the accused tried to attack him in the neck again. However, Sab dodged it and suffered minor injuries to his neck and fingers. However, the attacker snatched his bike and fled from the scene. The victim walked to the police station and lodged a complaint.

> Inquiries revealed that the accused had a fight with his family members after they refused to give him money for alcohol, walked out in a huff, and started attacking people.
>
> **D. DEVARAJ,**
> Deputy Commissioner of Police (East Division), Bengaluru City Police

Gives the slip to Hoysala

Following these attacks, the police were informed of the slashing spree. One of the Hoysala vehicles patrolling the area picked up the accused's trail.

"Soon after the attack, the control room received a message and the Hoysala patrolling police went in search of him based on the physical description provided. The patrolling team located him while he was fleeing on a two-wheeler and chased him. However, after a few minutes, he managed to escape the Hoysala patrolling police," D. Devaraj, Deputy Commissioner of Police (East Division), Bengaluru City Police, said.

"The accused later reached Hoskote on the outskirts of the city and tried to extort money at a medical store. But after the shopkeeper resisted and screamed for help, he managed to flee from there too. The police have confirmed his presence at the medical shop through CCTV camera footage later," Mr. Devaraj said.

Analysing footage from multiple CCTV cameras in the area, the Indiranagar police identified the serial slasher as a former rowdy sheeter with their police station, identified as Kadamba, a resident of Jogupalya.

A rowdy sheet was opened against the accused in May, 2024. However, it was closed recently over "good behaviour" after he furnished a bond of ₹1 lakh, Mr. Devaraj said.

"He has a total of six pending cases, including one burglary, two assault, and three robberies against him. He has a history of stealing mobile phones after consuming alcohol and he has a habit of picking up petty quarrels with neighbours over trivial reasons," a senior official said.

"Inquiries revealed that the accused had a fight with his family members after they refused to give him money for alcohol, walked out in a huff, and started attacking people," Mr. Devaraj said.

Vidur Sparsh Project launched at Christ varsity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a significant step towards empowering rural youth and enhancing employability through digital education, the Department of Professional Studies, School of Commerce, Finance, and Accountancy at Christ (Deemed to be University) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the NASSCOM/IT-ITeS Sector Skill Council on Monday.

The MoU formalises the launch of the *Vidur Sparsh Project - Reaching the Unreached*, an initiative aimed at providing critical digital skills to rural students, youth, and faculty members. The event, at the Central Block of Christ, was graced by Fr. Jose CC, Vice Chancellor of Christ, and Upmith Singh, Chief Operating Officer of NASSCOM SSC. Through the *Vidur Sparsh* initiative, Christ and NASSCOM as a pilot study will target 500 rural unemployed youths in various emerging technologies.

The Christ will train 1,500 of their students, who will act as a trainer and buddy for rural youth. One rural youth will be trained and mentored by three Christ students.

Valedictory ceremony of Grade X students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The valedictory ceremony of Grade X students at Presidency School, Ravindranath Tagore Nagar (R.T. Nagar), titled *Oneiro - Unlock, Unravel, Unleash*, was held on Friday. The event marked the end of their academic journey.

Educationist, businesswoman, and philanthropist Revathi Kamath graced the occasion as the chief guest. Kamath encouraged students to follow their interests and not succumb to pressure when choosing subjects. She emphasised the importance of allowing children the freedom to pursue careers of their choice. She recounted how her sons Nithin Kamath and Nikhil Kamath, thrived once they shifted into trading, their true passions.

PNB's home loan expo concludes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The PNB Home Loan Expo initiated by the Punjab National Bank (PNB) concluded in Bengaluru on Saturday at the Chandra Sagara Kalyana Mantapa in Jayanagar.

The event, attended by Ashok Chandra, Managing Director and CEO of Punjab National Bank, attracted a large crowd of prospective homebuyers. It showcased Punjab National Bank's digital home loan solutions, offering instant online approvals and competitive interest rates starting at 8.40%. Over 30 top builders including Brigade, Sobha, Godrej, Shriram Properties, Purvankara presented their residential projects, providing visitors with a variety of housing options.

The expo allowed visitors to engage with PNB officials, real estate experts, and solar companies, gaining insights into home financing and sustainable housing.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Open Tender Notice No.: BE-29-2024-25-OT-29

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of solar roof top power plants on Staff quarters and LC gates over Bengaluru Division under solarization of rooftops.	Rs. 21,97,57,278

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 27.02.2025**

Open Tender Notice No.: BE-29-2024-25-OT-28

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of solar roof top power plants on station and service buildings over Bengaluru Division under solarization of rooftops.	Rs. 34,90,34,504

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 26.02.2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General/Bengaluru

PUB/766/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

E-Tender Notice No.: Y/E.29/2024-25/85 Dated: 31.01.2025

Item of work	Approx. Value
Proposed Construction of Office and Service buildings under Hubballi - Chikjajur Jn. (UBL-JRU) Doubling Project. (**Sub Work-1:** Construction of Sr. Sectional Engineer / P.Way Office and store along with provision of compound wall at Ranebennur).	Rs. 7,51,482/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 21.02.2025**

E-Tender Notice No.: Y/E.29/2024-25/86 Dated: 31.01.2025

Item of work	Approx. Value
Replacement of OH ACSR Conductors by UG cables over Mysuru Division (Phase - III).	Rs. 1,26,05,936/-

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 21.02.2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/General/ Mysuru

PUB/767/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute
C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002
Website: https://cancerinstitute.edu.in, Email: procurement.kssscl@gmail.com

E-TENDER & GeM bid NOTICE

On-line offers are invited from Manufacturer/Authorized Importers/ Authorized distributors/Dealers (Declared by Principal Firm only) for the supply and installation of medical equipment & other capital Items for various departments of the Institute such as **Desktop Computer, Multifunction Printer Machine (MFM), UPS, Scanner, ICU Ventilator, PCR Thermal Cycler, Western Blot Unit, Transportation Boxes for Blood Bags, Syringe Infusion Pump, Air Sampler, Multipara Monitor etc.** as per tender conditions, as stipulated in the tender documents. Tender documents duly filled will be submitted in two bid system i.e. technical bid and price bid.

For detailed information like name of equipment, date of submission and opening of tender, name of e portal etc., you may please visit the e-tender portal or GeM Portal. The above details will also be available on our website **https://cancerinstitute.edu.in** for reference only.

The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any tenders in part or full without assigning any reason thereof. In case any legal dispute; the legal jurisdiction shall be court of law at Lucknow (UP), India.

Advt No:- KSSSCI / PRO-21/2024-25 Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client, **MR. MANOHAR DAVID JOHN**, son of Late Mr. T.L. John, presently at No. 73, 4th Cross, 1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore – 560034, is the owner of property bearing Municipal No. 73 (PID No. 68-1-73), situated at 4th Cross,1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore (hereinafter referred to as '**said Property**'). He has lost/misplaced the Original Documents of the said Property including:

(1) Auction Confirmation Letter No. AR/73/I.KML/78-79 dated 23/02/1979, issued by the Bangalore Development Authority to Air. Commodore M.G. Ramachandra.

(2) Possession Certificate (Memo) bearing No. PR 140/79-80 dated 28/06/1979 issued by the Bangalore Development Authority to Air. Commodore M.G. Ramachandra.

(3) Sale Deed dated 21/05/1982 executed by Bangalore Development Authority in favour of Air. Commodore M.G. Ramachandra, registered on 29/06/1982 as Document No. 1440/1982-83 in Book I, Volume 1837 at Pages 202 to 206, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk.

(4) Sale Deed dated 08/08/1986 executed by Air. Commodore M.G. Ramachandra in favour of Mr. Manohar David John, registered as Document No. 2406/1986-87 in Book 1, Volume 2462 at Pages 71 to 79, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore.

therefore, he has lodged a complaint through E-Lost portal, Lost Report No. 1470682/2025 on 10/02/2025.

Any persons(s) finding the said original documents may please hand over the same to the undersigned or if any person has any claim in the said Property, he/she/they shall intimate the same in writing with documentary evidence to the undersigned within **7 (seven)** days of the publication of this notice, after which date no claims will be entertained.

Sd/-
Divya Vani H.K., B.A., LL.M.
Advocate
RAVI LOBO & CO.,
No. 37/7, Meanee Avenue, Tank Road, S.C. Garden, Bangalore – 560 042
Tel: 080-41123363

Place: Bangalore
Dated: 10.02.2025

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. SG-SWR-PROJ-UBL-PSS Dated : 04-02-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
"Request for Proposal (RFP) for providing Project Supervision Services (PSS) At Various Construction Sites/Sections in the Jurisdiction of CSTE/ Project Hubballi and CSTE/Project Bengaluru, South Western Railway".	Rs. 13,80,09,261.96

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 27-02-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer Project, Hubballi

PUB/774/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION / ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS)

E-Tender Notice No. CAO-CN-RSP-MS-TT- 2025, DATED: 07.02.2025

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Road Safety Projects, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The Tenderers / Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Name of work	Cash Value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of Completion (Months)	Closing Date @ 15.00 Hrs
Preparation of Detailed Project Report for ROAD OVER BRIDGE / ROAD UNDER BRIDGE in lieu of **22 nos.** of level crossings	21704603	258600	4 Months	03.03.2025

For further details, please refer to web site portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, Road Safety Projects, Southern Railway, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

Chief Engineer, Construction,Road Safety Projects, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, HAZARIBAG.

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender Reference No. :- DMFT/MID/HAZARIBAG/F2-24/2024-25
Letter no - 155 Date :- 10 /02/2025

Group No	Scheme Name	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Time of Completion
1.	Renovation of Kendua Upgraded Middle School in Vill- Jagdishpur, Block- Chouparan	1,76,04,800.00	11 Months
2.	Renovation of Nawadih Primary School in Vill- Jagdishpur, Block- Chouparan	1,20,55,500.00	11 Months
3.	Renovation of Banaso Rajkiyakrit Middle School in Vill.- Banaso, Block- Vishnugarh	1,60,82,400.00	11 Months

1.	Date of Publication of e-Tender on website	24.02.2025 at 3:00 P.M **(e-Procurement Portal- http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)**
2.	Last date/Time for Submission of e-Tender bids Online	05.03.2025 up to 5:00 P.M
3.	Last Date for Online Submission of Tender Fee and EMD	05.03.2025 up to 5:00 P.M
4.	Date of opening of e-Tender	07.03.2025 at 03:00 P.M
5.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hazaribag
6.	Contact no. of e-Procurement officer	06546-270485
7.	E-mail of e- Procurement officer	eemidhbg-cemr-jhr@nic.in

Note:- 1.) Only e-Tender will be accepted.
2.) Published Estimated Cost may be increased or decreased.
3.) Further details can be seen and Mode of Submission of Online Tender/Tender Fee/EMD through http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hazaribag.

PR.NO.346234 Minor Irrigation(24-25):D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह

ई– अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई– अति अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना सं०–RDD/SD/GIRIDIH/26/2024-25
1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	गिरिडीह जिला के प्रखण्ड बेंगाबाद के ग्राम पंचायत कर्णपुरा के ग्राम प्रतापपुर(कालीचट्टान) में खण्डोली डैम के पीछे वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट के नजदीक उच्चस्तरीय पुल निर्माण कार्य।(पुल की लंबाई–38.72 मीटर)(जिला खनिज फाउण्डेशन ट्रस्ट मद)	22837236.00	457000.00	10000.00	15 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 13.02.2025
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 13.02.2025 से दिनांक 20.02.2025 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –22.02.2025 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता,ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 9431323435 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)।
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह

PR 346230 Rural Development(24-25)#D

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that my clients are intending to Purchase the Schedule Property from its owners namely **Sri.B.M.UDAY,** S/o Late.B.R. Mohan Raj, Aged about 43 years, Residing at No.507, 15th Cross,7th Main, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560038. and **Smt. DIVYA SHARINE**, W/o Late B.M.Vinay, aged about 38 years, residing at No.15/16, M R Residency, 5th Main, 3rd Cross, Bob Colony, J.P Nagar, 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078.

Any person having any manner of claim, right, title and interest over the Schedule Property are hereby notified to register their claim with copies of documents to the undersigned, within 15 days from this date of Public Notice. If no claims or objections are registered, my client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction to purchase the Schedule Property, deemed to be free from all encumbrances. Any claims received beyond 15 days will not be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property Bearing Site No.1639, Having BBMP Khata No.1081/1639, New EPID Khata No.3237584874, measuring East to West 9.15 Meters and North to South 11.58 Meters, Situated at Sector-VII, Hosur Sarjapura Road (also called as HSR Layout) Bangalore now within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and bounded on :- East by : Site No.1638; West by : Site No.1640; North by : Road; South by : Site No.1634.

Girish .S, Advocate
Office at No.995, 26th Cross, 17th Main, Sector-III, H.S.R Layout, Bangalore-560 102.
Ph: 7259833337

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client/s **Mr.ASHOK RATILAL ZATAKIA** and **Mrs.ZENOBIA ASHOK ZATAKIA** are intending to purchase and in the process of investigating on title of the immovable property morefully described in the schedule hereunder of which is owned by **Mrs. YASHODA**, aged about 67, years, wife of Sri. S.P. Shankar, residing at No.418, 4th Cross, OMBR Layout, near SRR Kalyanamantapa, Chikkabanaswadi, Bangalore-560043, (owners) If anybody has any ownership, charge, lien, interest, title or claim on the Schedule Property, they should come forthwith with the copies of documents in support of such ownership, claim and produce the same to the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the event no such legally tenable claim is received, our client shall proceed with the transaction of the Schedule property as if no such claims exist or that they have been waived or abandoned and our client shall be entitled to complete the sale transaction in respect of the Schedule Property. Objections and or claims received after the expiry of the period stipulated above shall neither be entertained nor be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

At that piece and parcel of Property bearing B.D.A residential house No.1CC-232, having BBMP E-Aasthi No.2959804884 ward No.50 situated at East of NGEF Layout, Kasturinagar, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 6.10 Mtrs, and North to South 9.15 Mtrs, measuring in all 55.81 Sq. Mtrs, having ground, 1st & 2nd floors totaly measuring 1500 square feet together with all rights appurtenances whatsoever, whether underneath or above the surface & bounded on the: **East by:** Site No.1CC-234, **West by:** Site No.1CC-230, **North by:** 1st C Cross Road, and **South by:** Site No.1BC-231.

VEENA.B
FOR D.K. LAW FIRM Advocates & Solicitors No. 803, 1st Floor,1st "C" Main road Domlur Layout B'lore-71
Ph. 9844097365/ 9986093622
Approved by the Owner and given consent to issue publication by D.K. LAW FIRM. Owner

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Division, Beguru Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 068.

No:BBMP/EE/BD/TEND-06/2024-25 Date: 10.02.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Single & Two Cover Tender)
(STANDARD TENDER DOCUMENT KW - 2 & 3)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Division, BBMP Bengaluru-68 invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with KPWD/CPWD/BWSSB/ Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Ward Nos.	Aprx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)	No. of Works	Category
1	218 (2nd Call)	67.52	67,520/-	01	SC
2	218 (2nd Call)	67.52 (Each Work)	1,35,040/- (Each Work)	02	Others
3	215 (2nd Call)	67.52	1,35,040/-	01	Others
4	217 (2nd Call)	67.52	1,35,040/-	01	Others
5	216 (2nd Call)	67.52	67,520/-	01	SC
6	220 (2nd Call)	67.52	1,35,040/-	01	Others
7	224 (2nd Call)	67.52	1,35,040/-	01	Others
8	221 (2nd Call)	67.53 (Each Work)	1,35,040/- (Each Work)	02	Others
9	222 (2nd Call)	67.52	67,520/-	01	SC
10	214 (3rd Call)	60.00	60,000/-	01	SC
11	219 (3rd Call)	60.00	60,000/-	01	SC
12	220 (3rd Call)	60.00	60,000/-	01	SC
13	219 (3rd Call)	15.00	18,750/-	01	ST
14	191	15.00	30,000/-	01	Others
15	191	20.00	25,000/-	01	ST
16	219 (3rd Call)	25.00 to 30.00	50,000/- to 60,000/-	02	Others

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Aprx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)	Category
	Improvements to Selected Roads and Drains in below mentioned areas			
17.	HSR BDA Complex Surrounding areas	100.00	1,00,000/-	ST
18.	5th Sector HSR Layout Surrounding areas	80.00	80,000/-	SC
19.	Singasandra Surrounding areas	80.00	1,60,000/-	Others
20.	Madeena Nagara Surrounding areas	100.00	2,00,000/-	Others
21.	Mangammanapalya Surrounding areas	90.00	1,80,000/-	Cat-1
22.	Billekahalli Surrounding areas	75.00	1,50,000/-	Others
23.	Ramanasree Layout Surrounding areas	75.00	1,50,000/-	Cat-II(A)
24.	Hongasandra Flood Affected Areas	80.00	1,60,000/-	Cat-II(A)
25.	Hulimavu Surrounding areas	100.00	1,00,000/-	SC
26.	Jaraganahalli Surrounding areas	100.00	2,00,000/-	Others
27.	Bommanahalli Sub Division	50.00	1,00,000/-	Others
28.	Bommanahalli Constituency	50.00	1,00,000/-	Others
29.	Zonal Office Surrounding area	20.00	50,000/-	Others

Calendar of Events : (1) Tenders must be submitted online through kpp portal on or before **24.02.2025** at **4:00** pm. (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from the kpp portal from **12.02.2025.** (3) Last Date for Submission of Tender Documents on or before **24.02.2025** at **4:00** pm. (4) The Pre bid meeting will be held on **15.02.2025** at **4:30** pm. (5) Technical / Financial bids will be opened on **25.02.2025** at **4:30** pm onwards.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer - Bommanahalli Division

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, Smt. Vijayalakshmi alias G.Vijaya, R/at No.259, Lakshmanapuri, Gandhi Nagar, Bangalore North, K.G.Road, Bangalore-560009 hereby state that both the names Vijayalakshmi and G. Vijaya belongs to one and the same person i.e., me only and my DOB is 12-02-1962 vide affidavit dated 07-02-2025 sworn before Notary Natesh. D, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I , Avaneesh s/o Raghavendra V Prabhu R/O #304 J J Galaxy 8th Cross Shivanand Nagar Bangalore 72 have changed my name to Avaneesh Raghavendra Prabhu vide affidavit dated 08/02/2025 for all future Purposes.

REAL ESTATE

Nana Nani Phase I for Senior Citizens -Villa (767Sqft) for Sale in Thondamuthur, CBE. 53Lakhs. Ph - 9159618021.

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TENDERS

Centre for Urbanization Buildings & Environment [CUBE]
IIT Madras Research Park, Taramani, Chennai-600113

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CUBE Invites sealed Tender in 2 Covers (Cover-1: Technical bid and Cover-2: Financial bid) from eligible Contractors satisfying prescribed conditions.

"Construction of Greywater Collection Network, consisting of Anaerobic Biological Treatment tank, Constructed Wetland for the Village development project" at Kachahalliand Ankathatti Village, Sidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballapur District, Karnataka.

Tender documents will be available at https://cubeiitm.org/tender.html, Tender ID: CUBE/ADM/TEND/B&C/025/2024-25 and CUBE/ADM/TEND/B&C/026/2024-25 on or after 12-02-2025. Last date of bid submission 19-02-2025.

Cross-blood transplant performed on a patient with Bombay blood

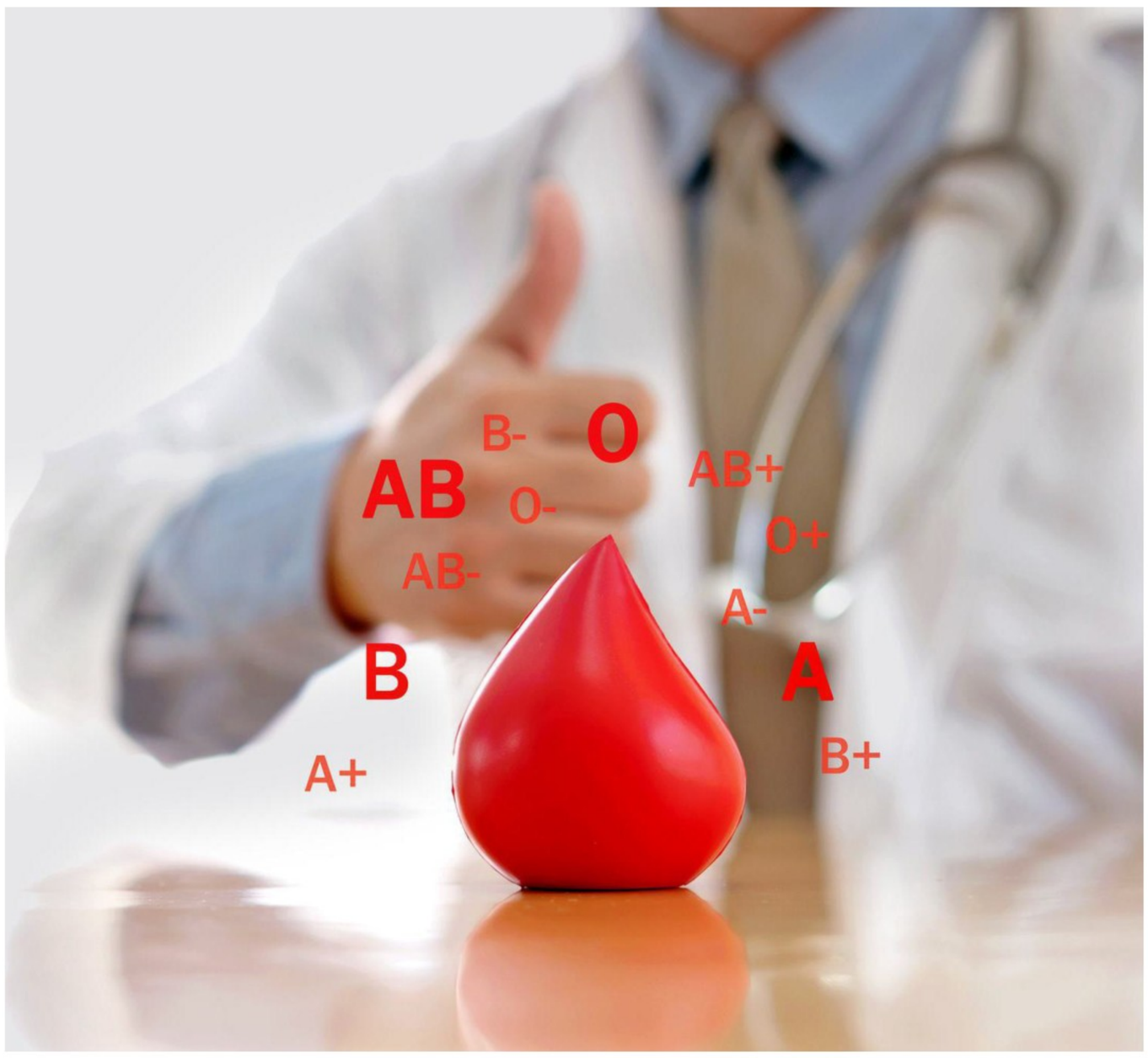
His mother donated her kidney, though she did not have the Bombay blood group. And doctors in Chennai, who had performed cross-blood transplants for close to two decades, were willing to cross the Rubicon and pulled off what not long ago might have looked like a sheer miracle

Ramya Kannan

It was in his blood that the 30-year-old male should create history. Literally.

In mid-2024, the patient underwent a kidney transplant. Though he was relatively young for a transplant, that's not where he stands unique. He had the extremely rare Bombay blood group, which prevented him from receiving organs or even blood transfusions from anyone who didn't have the same blood group running through their veins.

But then that's exactly what he did: his mother donated her kidney, though she did not have the Bombay blood group. Doctors at MIOT International in Chennai, who had performed cross-blood transplants for close to two decades, were willing to cross the Rubicon into a sector with no precedence whatsoever: no one had attempted a cross-blood match on a Bombay group patient ever before.



The Bombay, a.k.a. HH, blood group is a rare blood group first discovered in Mumbai in 1952 by Y.M. Bhende. Representative image. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

A sheer miracle

In a recent paper published in the peer-reviewed journal *Kidney International Reports*, the team that worked on the transplant – Rajan Ravichandran, Yashwanth Raj T., and Kanakaraj Arumugam – chronicled for posterity how a team of doctors in Chennai pulled off what not long ago might have been put down as a sheer miracle. "It was impossible for Bombay blood group patients to receive blood or organs from another blood group, until it was not," senior nephrologist Dr. Ravichandran explained.

The story he believes begins nearly two decades ago, when he was trained in Japan to perform cross-blood transplants, referring to the transplantation performed when donors and recipients have different blood types. In 2010, he and his team at MIOT Hospitals used a kidney from a donor with B blood group on a recipient with O blood group, successfully. Using a special procedure called double filtration plasmapheresis (DFPP) developed by the Japanese, the team had the patient discharged in a week and back at his software job in three months' time.

"The most essential requirement in transplantation is a blood group match – ideally, the patient's own blood group, or in the event it is not available, any group for which his blood does not carry antibodies," Dr. Ravichandran explained.

Antibodies are used by the body to detect and neutralise foreign bodies, while antigens are proteins or carbohydrates found on the surface of red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets, and they determine blood type.

The Bombay blood group

The Bombay, a.k.a. HH, blood group is a rare blood group first discovered in Mumbai in 1952 by Y.M. Bhende. The key differences between the Bombay blood group and the common ABO blood groups lie in the presence (or absence) of the H antigen, which is the fundamental building block for the ABO blood group system.

In normal individuals, the H antigen serves as the base structure for building A and B antigens. In Bombay blood group individuals, the gene responsible for producing the H antigen is mutated or absent, so neither A nor B antigens can be formed.

Therefore, these people cannot receive blood transfusions from any ABO group, including type O, which has the H antigen. They can only receive blood from another Bombay blood group donor. Its prevalence is about 0.0004% (one in 4 million) of the total human population. While it drops to one in a million in the European population and one in 10,000 in Mumbai, the act of finding a donor is still daunting.

Clinical challenges

It was daunting for this index patient as well. The issue was not to find a donor for a kidney; his mother was eager to donate hers; the nub was that his body would reject it outright because they had differing blood groups. "We decided that it was time to use the principles of cross-blood matching that we use for the ABO type here as well. We assumed it was a similar situation and decided to use the Japanese technique of DFPP," Dr. Ravichandran said.

"Once you identify the Bombay blood group, you know he has anti-H antibodies. Firstly, we measure anti-A and anti-B antibodies in the blood as we do in the case of ABO cross-blood matches. Here, additionally, you have to measure the levels for anti-H antibodies too, and titrate the levels. The next step is to give a monoclonal antibody injection to the patient to deplete B cells that produce antibodies," he said.

As the authors detailed in the paper,

In normal individuals, the H antigen serves as the base structure for building A and B antigens. In Bombay blood group individuals, the gene responsible for producing the H antigen is mutated or absent, so neither A nor B antigens can be formed. Therefore they cannot receive transfusions from any ABO group

the clinical challenges in such a scenario, even among those with rich cross-blood transplant experience in ABO, include determining a safe anti-H antibody titre cut-off, sufficient enough to stop the body from rejecting the organ from the donor.

Notably, there is no precedence for this, so one had to, again, assume a safe level of antibody concentration. There is a high risk of hyper-acute rejection as anti-H antibodies are more potent than anti-A or anti-B antibodies.

"After determining the titre (levels) of antibodies, we started plasmapheresis, which again removes the antibodies in the blood, lowering the chances of rejection. This was combined with immunosuppressive IVIG [intravenous immunoglobulin] to further suppress antibodies, thereby preventing hyperacute rejection of the organ."

Every alternate day, the team measured the level of antibodies in the patient. "Normally for anti-A and anti-B, we consider a 1-in-16 concentration of antibody to be an ideal safe point to start transplant. It starts at 1-in-256, we then bring it down, lower the antibodies present. In anti-H there just is no cut off, so we made a few assumptions," he said.

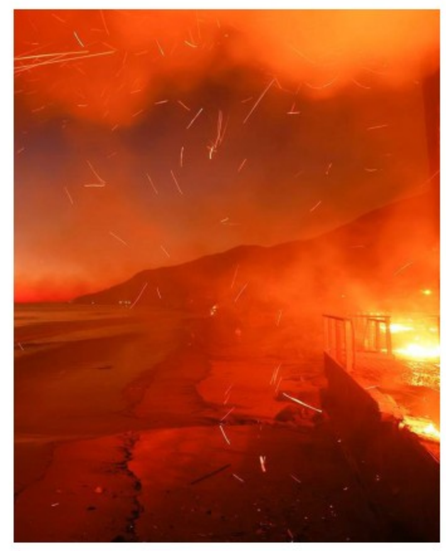
A new hope

At what was assumed to be a safe, no-rejection antibody titre, the transplant surgery was performed. The team scoured the State for units of Bombay blood group units, just in case the patient might need it during transplant surgery, since cross-blood transfusion is not possible. However, he did not need it. The surgery was a breeze, and there were no complications during or after surgery, the team said.

While there is no published literature regarding accommodation of anti-H antibodies by the graft, as it had not been tested before, in this patient the doctors seemed to have achieved a no-rejection antibody titre status, and there was no rejection. The first two weeks, which are also crucial to decide if the organ will be rejected, also passed without incident, the doctors said.

Six months later, the patient is well and able to resume his pre-transplant activities, grateful at how the impossible became possible for him – and hopefully, for others in the Bombay blood group as well, if they are ever to require a transplant.

(ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in)



The Palisades Fire burns through a beach front property, in California on January 8, 2025. AP

Is global warming accelerating?

Associated Press

The world warmed to yet another monthly heat record in January, despite an abnormally chilly US, a cooling La Nina, and predictions of a slightly less hot 2025, according to the European climate service Copernicus.

The surprising January heat record coincides with a new study by a climate science heavyweight, former top NASA scientist James Hansen, and others arguing that global warming is accelerating. It's a claim that's dividing the research community.

January 2025 globally was 0.09 degrees C warmer than January 2024, the previous hottest January, and was 1.75 C warmer than it was before industrial times, Copernicus calculated. It was the 18th month of the last 19 that the world hit or passed 1.5 C above pre-industrial times. Scientists won't regard the limit as breached until global temperatures stay above it for 20 years.

By far the biggest driver of record heat is greenhouse gas buildup from the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas, but the natural contributions to temperature change have not been acting as expected, said Samantha Burgess, strategic lead for climate for the European weather agency.

The big natural factor in global temperatures is usually the natural cycle of changes in the equatorial Pacific Ocean waters. When the central Pacific is especially warm, it's an El Nino and global temperatures tend to spike. Last year was a substantial El Nino, though it ended last June, and the year was the hottest on record.

El Nino's cooler flip side, a La Nina, tends to dampen the effects of global warming, making record temperatures less likely. A La Nina started in January after brewing for months. Just last month,

It was the 18th month of the last 19 that the world hit 1.5 C above pre-industrial times. Scientists won't regard the limit as breached until temperatures stay above it for 20 years

climate scientists were predicting that 2025 wouldn't be as hot as 2024 or 2023, with the La Nina a major reason.

But Hansen, the former NASA scientist now at Columbia University, said 2025 could break 2024's records. In a study in the journal *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, Hansen and colleagues said the last 15 years have warmed at about twice the rate of the previous 40 years.

"I'm confident that this higher rate will continue for at least several years," Hansen said in an interview.

There's been a noticeable temperature rise even when taking out El Nino variations and expected climate change since 2020, Hansen said. He noted recent shipping regulations that have resulted in reduced sulphur pollution, which reflects some sunlight away from the earth and effectively reduces warming. And that will continue, he said.

University of Michigan environment dean Jonathan Overpeck, who wasn't part of the Hansen study. "There seems little doubt that global warming and the impacts of climate change are accelerating."

But Princeton's Gabe Vecchi and University of Pennsylvania's Michael Mann said they disagree. Vecchi said there's not enough data to show that this isn't random chance. Mann said that temperature increases are still within what climate models forecast.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

There are more minerals on earth than are dreamt of in our geology

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Tanzanite is a strikingly blue variety of calcium aluminium hydroxyl sorosilicate crystals. Its colour is the result of small amounts of X present in the crystal — in the same way that some tunicates display a vivid blue colour thanks to metalloproteins called vanabins. Name X.

QUESTION 2

Zirconium and Y are very rarely found in the same natural compounds because the processes that create and accumulate them are very different. This is what makes the mineral painite very hard to find. Most of the currently known deposits of the mineral occur in Myanmar. Name Y.

QUESTION 3

In pure form, this mineral has the chemical formula $NaAlSi_2O_6$. It's tough, dense, and doesn't weather easily. Its green form is highly valued in China. It's formed only in the subduction zones of continents, where rock is transformed to contain new minerals under very high pressure. Name the mineral.

QUESTION 4

When angular, hard-edged rock fragments become cemented together by powdery rock, you have breccia. Name the mineral found in the Dhofar 280 meteorite that crashed in Oman in 2000 later identified as lunar breccia.

QUESTION 5

Ekanite is one of the very few minerals on the earth that are naturally radioactive. It occurs mostly in Sri Lanka. It's hard to find because, in a process called Z, the radioactivity slowly but progressively degrades the crystal structure. Name Z.

Answers to January 30 quiz:

1. First computer virus that 'escaped' to other networks – **Ans: Elk Cloner**
2. First virus for the IBM Personal Computer – **Ans: Brain**
3. Code that mutates its algorithm when it runs – **Ans: Polymorphic code**
4. Code that rewrites itself to perform new functions – **Ans: Metamorphic code**
5. Worm believed to have disrupted Iran's nuclear programme – **Ans: Stuxnet**

Visual: **John von Neumann**

First contact: ViswanadhaRao Batchu | K.N. Viswanathan | Dalbeer Singh | Ashish Nair | Joe V.R.

Visual: Name this mineral, thus far found only in Serbia. Its chemical formula is very similar to that of kryptonite as described in the 2006 film *Superman Returns*. DUNGODUNG (CC BY-SA 4.0)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Citizens from East and Mahadevapura zones raise concerns over Bill

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The issues of delimitation that will arise from decentralisation of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill 2024, the usage of a Kannada word instead of 'Greater', and conducting elections for the BBMP were some of the important suggestions provided by citizens at public consultation meetings on the Bill on Monday.

A file photo of buildings in Bengaluru.

The meetings were held in the East and Mahadevapura zones of the BBMP and attended by Rizwan Arshad, Shivajinagar MLA, who heads the joint legislature committee examining the Bill. Most citizens flagged the issue of shortage of time to study and analyse the Bill as the draft was made available through a link just a couple of days before the meeting.

"The time given is extremely short for such an important Bill and is very poorly advertised where many citizens have no access to the notification. Normally, 30 days are given for a full study and a considered response. The first notification of this consultation had no reference or details or transcript of the Bill itself. This was modified and a link was provided only three or four days before the consultation dates," said a letter submitted by the Citizens' Action Forum (CAF) to Mr. Arshad.

Some other citizens pointed out that rather than splitting the BBMP into many smaller bodies, it is essential to constitute the Bengaluru Metropolitan Planning Committee (BMPC). "There was no mention of the BMPC during the meetings. The population under the BBMP currently is around 1.2 crore. When split, each corporation will have more than 10 lakh people and the Constitution has made it clear that if there are more than 10 lakh people, then there should be an MPC. Hence, if they split the BBMP into 10 parts, then there should be 10 MPCs," said Kathyayini Chamaraj, civic activist.

She also said that the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) under the Bill will lead to urban inequality as municipal councils, municipal corporations, and the GBA will all have different laws and rules for urban citizens.

Shwetha R., a civic activist from Balagere, said that no definitive responses were given during the meeting.

"They did not have answers for how many years it would take to implement the Bill or incorporate our suggestions. They did not tell us if the BBMP elections will be conducted after the Bill is passed or if all the infrastructure work that is pending will be taken up on war footing as the problems of the common people cannot wait until the Bill is passed."

Mr. Arshad while calling it a successful consultation meeting, told *The Hindu*: "We understand the concerns of the public. We will take up their suggestions if they are constitutional and if they come under the purview of the law. As far as time is concerned, we have also provided an email address to which they can send their suggestions. We have two more days of these meetings, and we should see how they go."

Public consultation for four zones today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city's civic body has organised two public consultation meetings for residents of four zones in the city on the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, on Tuesday.

Residents of South and Bommanahalli zones can voice their opinions at a meeting at R.V. Dental College, I Phase, J.P. Nagar from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Residents of R.R. Nagar and West zones can do so at a meeting at Dr. H. Narasimhaiah Hall, Jnanabharati campus, Bangalore University, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

MLA and Joint Legislature Committee chair Rizwan Arshad will preside over both meetings.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (February 11, Tuesday), the following articles are available:

- What scientists make of R&D allocations in the 2025 Union Budget **newsth.live/sciencebudget**
- Cross-blood transplant performed on a patient with rare Bombay blood **newsth.live/rareblood**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

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NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT

[Pursuant to Sections 108 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rules 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014]

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of Sections 108 and 110 and all other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 (the **"Act"**) read with Rules 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 (the **"Rules"**), Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (the **"SEBI Listing Regulations"**), Secretarial Standard on General Meetings (**"SS-2"**) issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, including any statutory modification(s), clarification(s), substitution(s) or re-enactment(s) thereof for the time being in force, guidelines prescribed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (the **"MCA"**), Government of India, for holding general meetings / conducting postal ballot process through electronic voting (remote e-voting) vide General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020, 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, 39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021, 20/2021 dated December 08, 2021, 03/2022 dated May 05, 2022, 11/2022 dated December 28, 2022, 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023 and 09/2024 dated September 19, 2024 (the **"MCA Circulars"**), the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and any other applicable laws and regulations, to transact the following businesses by way of Special resolutions via Postal Ballot through e-voting process:

S.No.	Description of the Resolution
1	Approval and adoption of "Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited Employee Stock Option Plan 2024" [TMB ESOP 2024]
2	Extension of benefits under the "Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited Employee Stock Option Plan 2024 [TMB ESOP 2024]" to the Eligible Employees of its subsidiary companies, associate companies and group companies of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited

The Postal Ballot Notice is being sent to the Members, whose names appeared in the Register of Members / Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on Friday, January 31, 2025 (the "Cut-Off Date"), through e-mail to those shareholders, who have registered their e-mail address and through post for those shareholders who have not registered their e-mail address. The Postal Ballot Notice is also available at the Bank's website **www.tmb.in** under 'Investors Relations' section and the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited at **www.bseindia.com** and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at **www.nseindia.com** and on the website of NSDL at **www.evoting.nsdl.com.** In accordance with the applicable circulars issued by the MCA, the members can vote on the resolutions proposed in the said Postal Ballot Notice only by electronic means ("e-voting"). The Bank has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") to provide the e-voting facility. The detailed instructions on e-voting are provided in the postal ballot notice sent to the shareholders.

The remote e-voting schedule is as under:

EVEN (E-Voting Event Number)	**132870**
Commencement of e-voting	**Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 9.00 A.M. IST**
Conclusion of e-voting	**Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 5.00 P.M. IST**
Cut-Off date for eligibility to vote	**Friday, January 31, 2025**

The e-voting facility will be disabled by NSDL, immediately after 5.00 p.m. IST on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, for voting thereafter. Once the vote on the resolutions are cast by the Member, the same cannot be changed subsequently.

The Board of Directors have appointed Shri.P.Sriram, (Membership No. FCS 4862) (CP No. 3310), Practicing Company Secretary of M/s.SPNP & Associates, to act as the scrutinizer, for conducting the Postal Ballot process in a fair and transparent manner.

The resolutions, if passed by requisite majority by remote e-voting, shall be deemed to have been passed on the last date of e-voting i.e., Wednesday, March 12, 2025. The results of e-voting will be announced on or before Friday, March 14, 2025, and will be displayed on the Bank's website **www.tmb.in** under 'Investors Relations' section and on the website of the NSDL i.e., **www.evoting.nsdl.com**. The results will simultaneously be communicated to the Stock Exchanges i.e., BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited.

In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of **www.evoting.nsdl.com** or call on toll free no: 022 - 4886 7000 or send a request at **evoting@nsdl.com.**

By Order of the Board of Directors
For Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited
Sd/-
Swapnil Yelgaonkar
Company Secretary
(Membership No: ACS 21877)

Thoothukudi
February 10, 2025

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount of GST evaded from April to December 2024

1.88 In ₹ lakh crore. GST evasion of over ₹1.88 lakh crore was detected by Central GST officers during April-December 2024, the Lok Sabha was informed on Monday. In all, 132 arrests were made and recovery of ₹20,128 crore was made during the period. PTI

Amount spent so far on PM Internship Scheme's pilot project

48 In ₹ crore. Around ₹48 crore has been spent so far for the pilot project of the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme, with the Corporate Affairs Ministry gathering feedback from stakeholders to assess its impact. The scheme aims to provide internships to one crore youth. PTI

Students benefiting from Credit Guarantee Fund scheme

6.78 In lakh. The Centre has approved ₹3,019 crore under the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme benefiting 6.78 lakh students till 2024. Under the scheme, the government gives guarantee for education loans availed by students without any collateral security. PTI

Number of companies that faced Corporate Affairs Ministry probe

462 As many as 462 companies came under the lens of the Corporate Affairs Ministry's regional directors for suspected fraud in the last five financial years. A total of 51 companies were under probe in 2023-24 while the count stood at 205 in 2022-23. PTI

Number of jhuggis reduced to ashes in Himachal Pradesh

23 families were rendered shelter less as a cluster of jhuggis were reduced to ashes in a fierce fire which broke out in Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur, an official said. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained but there was no loss of life. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What has the Budget offered scientists?

The Union Budget for 2025-26 provided an overall and possibly unprecedented thrust on research and innovation, especially in the private sector. The Budget's support for private sector research is expected to accelerate advancements in areas such as gene-editing, personalised medicine, and sustainable agriculture

FULL CONTEXT

T.V. Padma

What does India's 2025-2026 Union Budget spell for India's research ecosystem? The author asked seven scientists and science administrators. Their replies are presented below, edited for clarity.

Read the full version online here: bit.ly/scientistsbudget

Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology:
The Budget provides an overall and possibly unprecedented thrust on research and innovation by setting aside ₹20,000 crore for the Department of Science & Technology (DST), and towards research in the private sector, including corporates and startups. There is a focused attempt to bring together academia, the private sector, and startups to work on national missions.

The dedicated fund of ₹20,000 crore is part of the ₹1 lakh crore corpus fund announced in the Budget of July 2024 to boost private sector R&D, especially in the deeptech and sunrise sectors. The DST will be the nodal ministry driving this fund. This will be a major step towards creating strategic autonomy in some key technology sectors. The National Geospatial Mission has been allocated ₹100 crore for FY 2025-2026 to develop foundational geospatial infrastructure and data. The mission will help implement the National Geospatial Policy 2022, with the goal of expanding the access and use of geospatial data and making India a world leader in the geospatial sector.

The Finance Minister has announced several initiatives to boost science, and innovation in the country including the Nuclear Energy Mission, clean tech initiatives, Atal Tinkering Labs etc.

Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT):
The Union Budget demonstrates a commitment to advancing India's biotechnology sector, which aligns closely with the DBT's objectives. The ₹3,446.64 crore allocation reflects a significant increase of 51.45% from the previous year's allocation.

Recently, the government also approved the 'Bio-RIDE' scheme to foster innovation, promote bio-entrepreneurship, and strengthen India's position as a global leader in biomanufacturing and biotechnology.

The Budget's support for private sector research is expected to accelerate advancements in areas such as gene-editing, personalised medicine, and sustainable agriculture. The proposal for a light-touch regulatory framework based on principles and trust is a progressive step. Aligned with the government's 'BioE3 Policy' for fostering high-performance biomanufacturing, the National Manufacturing Mission (NMM) announced in the Budget aims to accelerate technology development and commercialisation.

The National Mission on High Yielding Seeds will focus on strengthening the research ecosystem and developing high-yielding, pest-resistant, and climate-resilient seeds. Similarly, some of DBT's initiatives contribute to self-reliance programmes, such as the mission on minor oil seeds. Another is a mission programme on "Characterisation of Genetic Resources", to sequence/re-sequence and characterise available germplasm resources of pulses.

ISTOCKPHOTO

N. Kalaiselvi, Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR):
The Budget reinforces science, technology, and innovation (STI) as key enablers of national progress, aligning with CSIR's vision of advancing self-reliance and global competitiveness. The Budget's focus on public-private partnerships, industry collaboration, and technology-driven entrepreneurship will accelerate innovation in manufacturing, healthcare, and sustainability.

For agriculture and rural prosperity, CSIR's Aroma and Floriculture Missions align with the Agri-Districts Initiative, promoting value-added farming and boosting farmer incomes. Similarly, CSIR's Millets Mission supports self-reliance in the farming of pulses and oilseeds, ensuring nutritional security and climate-resilient farming. The CSIR Cotton Mission aligns with the National Cotton Mission, strengthening India's position in global textile markets.

The Indigenous Manufacturing and Smart Packaging Missions find synergy with the NMM, driving innovation-led industrial growth. The Green Hydrogen Mission, spearheaded by CSIR, supports the clean energy transition.

For youth-skilling, CSIR's Jigyasa Programme complements Atal Tinkering Labs, fostering STEM education and research exposure. The Seaweed Mission and Learn & Earn Program empowers women entrepreneurs, supporting economic inclusion. Additionally, CSIR's Footwear for Healthcare and India Footwear Sizing Program align with the leather sector's initiatives. This Budget cements CSIR's pivotal role in nation-building and reinforces STI as the foundation for a self-reliant, inclusive, and globally competitive India.

K.S. Parthasarathy, former Secretary, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board:
The Central government's ambitious programme to enhance the share of nuclear power to 100 GWe by 2047 and to invest heavily to support associated R&D is challenging to all stakeholders. Accepting private sector participation in the nuclear sector adds a new dimension to the programme. Success in the project to develop and install Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) is essential in India's energy transition. As per the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), SMRs are nuclear reactors with a power generating capacity of 300 MWe equivalent or less.

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has implemented measures to regulate the safety of VVER Russian reactors, pressurised heavy water reactors of 700 MWe etc, all of which include first of its kind technologies.

AERB's reports to the IAEA Convention of Nuclear Safety reveal how openly and transparently it has been fulfilling its mandate. AERB staff updates its knowledge and expertise in safety-related disciplines associated with new technologies. It has linkages with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the French regulatory agency among others, and exchanges its experience regularly.

C.P. Rajendran, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru:
The Budget infuses significant funding for science and technology and for the DBT, whereas the allocation for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is nominal.

The importance of curiosity-driven science doesn't seem to be a major priority. Much of the funding appears directed towards mission-mode programmes such as nuclear energy, AI, private sector initiatives, etc. The government also plans to amend the Nuclear Liability and Damage Act 2010 that makes operators liable for nuclear damage. This will have serious ramifications. Many experts have raised concerns about SMRs.

The Finance Minister also announced the expansion of the Small Industries Development Bank of India Fund for Startups with an additional ₹10,000 crore corpus to enhance the "deeptech ecosystem" in startups focused on AI, biotech, and space technology. India had over 3,600 deeptech startups in 2023. In that year, they raised $850 million, reflecting a 77% decrease from 2022 due to investors' lack of confidence regarding investment returns.

Curiosity-driven research is propelled by scientists' curiosity regarding specific research questions. What I observe is a growing corporatisation of science driven solely by immediate utility. Another critical issue is the rigid bureaucracy surrounding funding, which has created significant problems over the years.

Tapasya Srivastava, University of Delhi, South Campus:
The Budget meets the increasing needs of health research and biomedical devices, given that the Economic Survey recognised the physical and mental harms of ultra-processed food leading to non-communicable diseases.

The percentage increase from the Revised Estimate of 2024-2025 to Budget Estimate of 2025-2026 for Central universities (4.3%) is about half of that given to IITs (8.4%), which is disappointing given the number of students and the overhauling with respect to the National Education Policy (NEP) that universities are going through. These changes require unprecedented support from the government, which is not evident looking at these numbers.

It would have been more meaningful if the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship became an interim research fellowship of a reasonable amount that replaces the abysmally low ₹8,000 non-NET UGC. The PMRF is competitive and, therefore, ends up mostly in labs with sufficient funding.

The AI bandwagon is something that all governments seem to want to rush into. The allocation has come into the Centre of Excellence in AI education and one hopes the Centre sets benchmarks for adoption in a way that truly benefits Indian society, beyond buzzwords.

With a significant number of youth struggling with mental health issues, overall health decline, reduced attention span and consumerism, the unprecedented advantage of a steady government to implement value-based learning and life skills in school education to bring about generational change appears to have been lost.

Soumitro Banerjee, IISER, Kolkata:
The scientific community of India is dismayed to see the low financial allocation to sectors crucial for scientific development. The NEP-2020, adopted by the same government, recommended the expenditure on education be 6% of the GDP, which requires at least 10% of the Union Budget to be spent on education.

But since 2020, there has been no attempt to meet this target. This year the allocation is only 2.54%. This implies that through NEP-2020, the government is trying to change the structure and content of education without improving its quality. The direction of change is clear from the five-fold increased outlay for 'Indian Knowledge Systems'.

Basic science research has taken a backseat as the funding for IISc and the IISERs has been reduced. The UGC, which funds all universities, saw a drastic reduction in its budget last year (from ₹5,360 crore to ₹2,500 crore). Despite some increase this year (33% BE to BE), it is far below the pre-2024 figure.

T.V. Padma is a science journalist.

THE GIST

- The dedicated fund of ₹20,000 crore is part of the ₹1 lakh crore corpus fund announced in the Budget of July 2024 to boost private sector R&D, especially in the deeptech and sunrise sectors.
- The importance of curiosity-driven science doesn't seem to be a major priority. Much of the funding appears directed towards mission-mode programmes such as nuclear energy, AI, private sector initiatives, etc.
- Basic science research has taken a backseat as the funding for IISc and the IISERs has been reduced.

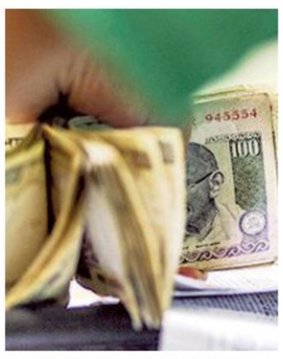
CCB book couple for running moneylending business illegally

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sleuths from the Central Crime Branch (CCB) booked a couple for running an illegal moneylending business and charging exorbitant interest rate for many years.

The business came to light when one of the victims identified as Samreen Taj, 25, from Siddapura borrowed a loan of ₹1.6 lakh for her sister's marriage in July 2021, and ended up paying ₹3.8 lakh as interest till May 2024.

However, when she requested them to clear the principal amount, the couple allegedly verbally abused and threatened her with dire consequences



The accused would charge people exorbitant rates of interest. FILE PHOTO

and asked her to pay the dues. The accused also filed a cheque bounce case against her after writing ₹4 lakh in the post-dated cheque which they had collected from her as surety.

The victim approached the Deputy Register of Cooperative Societies seeking help. Taking cognisance of the petition, Gangadhar, the Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies, filed a complaint with the CCB against the couple for running the illegal moneylending business.

Based on the complaint, the CCB registered a case against the couple charging them under the Karnataka Money Lenders Act, 1961, the Karnataka Prohibition of Charging Exorbitant Interest Act, 2004, and also under Section 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace) and 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code for further investigation.

Lorry driver among three arrested for house break-in

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Gauribidanur police cracked a house break-in case and arrested a 50-year-old lorry driver along with two of his associates, and recovered valuables worth ₹35.15 lakh from them.

The accused Noorulla, a resident of Jigani, and his associates Vinod and Sagar had burgled the house of Ashwath Narayana Reddy and escaped with 417 grams of gold valuables, 2 kilograms of silver articles, and other expensive gifts totalling ₹35.14 lakh.

Based on a complaint, the police zeroed in on the accused. While chasing them, the vehicle carrying the police team lost control and toppled. The injured police continued to chase and finally caught Noorulla.

Based on his information, the police arrested his associates and recovered the stolen valuables. The fourth accused Ameena Bi in this case is absconding and efforts are on to track her down, Kushal Chouksey, SP, Chickballapur district, said.

AXIS BANK — PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION

Public Notice for – E-Auction of pledged assets being Gold Ornaments

The Borrowers, in specific and the public in general are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledge in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted by the Axis Bank at the below mentioned Branch.

The below mentioned Borrowers has availed the credit facility from the **Axis Bank Limited** against the pledge of gold ornaments ("Gold Loan Facility") in favour of the Bank towards the security. The Demand notices were issued to the Borrowers/Guarantors calling up the Borrowers/Guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the Gold loan facility availed. As the Borrowers/Guarantors have failed to repay the outstanding loan amount, the bank is constrained to invoke the pledge and proposed to conduct an e-auction sale of pledged gold ornaments more particularly described in schedule of property hereunder on **21.02.2025 at 12:30PM to 3:30PM on "As In Where Is", "As Is What Is", "Whatever There Is" and "No Recourse Basis".**

Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount

Branch Name	Loan A/C No.	Customer Name	Amount Outstanding	Date of Demand Notice	Gross Weight	Net Weight
Banashankari [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX506629	Basudev Pramanik	669711	15-Feb-24	222.800	164.600
Bangarapet Kt	XXXXXXXXXX673768	Ravichandra K M	88214	28-Nov-24	36.000	35.900
Bidadi, Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX133289	Vinod B	134479	06-Jan-25	33.800	33.700
Chikballapur Kola Kt	XXXXXXXXXX245974	Archana S	1465942	27-Sep-24	276.700	264.800
Chikballapur Kola Kt	XXXXXXXXXX268653	Naveen N	61212	10-Oct-23	8.700	8.400
Chintamani [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX309797	Thejesh N	310765	28-Dec-23	88.800	88.000
Chintamani [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX698863	Thejesh N	288617	20-Nov-23	65.500	65.300
Chintamani [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX010654	Thejesh N	160497	30-May-23	41.600	38.600
Chintamani [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX313145	Thejesh N	122669	28-Dec-23	35.250	32.000
Devanahalli,Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX388356	Mahesh N	26418	07-Sep-24	7.100	6.100
Dod Ballapur,Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX192935	Mailarappa	1550559	27-Sep-24	290.000	290.000
Dod Ballapur,Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX287330	Chand Pasha .	88839	26-Jul-24	23.100	23.100
Dommasandra Kt	XXXXXXXXXX367233	Jagathamma Vijayan	79204.63	04-Nov-24	16.600	16.400
Electronic City, Bangalore [Kt	XXXXXXXXXX207138	Minchala Prasad	93985.5	06-Jan-25	20.300	20.100
Indiranagar, Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX301615	Nazia Ali	608170	07-Sep-24	128.100	125.400
Iti Layout Bngr Kt	XXXXXXXXXX015819	Keerthesh G M	60149	04-Nov-24	12.200	12.200
Kolar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX142254	Anil Kumar K N	62170.53	06-Jan-25	19.900	19.400
Koramangala, Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX968690	Samyak Dash	111256	15-Feb-24	28.100	26.800
Mahalakshmi Lay Bngr Kt	XXXXXXXXXX397030	Akshaya D	79147	04-Nov-24	19.000	19.000
Mahalakshmi Lay Bngr Kt	XXXXXXXXXX359468	Shobha B	61974	07-Jun-24	13.100	13.100
R T Nagar, Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX446038	Mudda Reddy	1468059	04-Aug-24	404.500	386.300
Rajarajeshwari Nagar,Banaglore	XXXXXXXXXX918678	Anantha Shivaram	1182000	28-Nov-24	265.440	254.140
Rbi Layout ,Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX220762	Shaziya Sulthan	292560	04-Nov-24	64.200	62.000
Robertsonpet Kt	XXXXXXXXXX997160	Archana P	159257	20-Nov-23	36.900	36.800
Tumkur [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX276120	K R Deepak	136476.19	20-Jul-24	19.800	19.000
Vijayanagar, Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX806272	Mahdevappa Mahesh	347987	07-Sep-24	84.500	76.000
Vijayanagar, Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX691106	Syed Sirajuddin	242710	28-Nov-24	101.400	99.600

Axis Bank Ltd. has the authority to remove account/change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online https://gold.samil.in on 21.02.2025 between 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM.
For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website https://gold.samil.in (website of online vendor)

Place: Bangalore — **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Axis Bank LTD.**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of information on E-Auction Schedules on 20-02-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Auction for the following work:

E-Auction Catalogue No.	Station	Category/ Sub -Category
PARKING-BYD-1	Parking contract at Byadagi (BYD) Railway Station	Parking - Mixed

Date & Time of E-Auctioning : **20-02-2025 at 15:00 hrs.**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Mysuru

PUB/775/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that my client S. Premalatha has lost original Sale Deed No. 2766 dated 24-1-1968 regd, at sub Registrar, Shivajinagar Bangalore in respect of property No.50, K Kamaraj Road (Cavalry Road) Civil Station, Bangalore-560042, Regarding to this complaint has been filed in City Civil Station FIR No. 1470491 dated 10.02.2025. If anybody in possession of it may contact the undersigned.

S. I BALAGURU
Advocate,
Mayohall Court.
Mobile: 9036730898

IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL JUDGE TO THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE CLASS-I (SENIOR DIVISION) - TEHSIL-TARANA, DISTRICT-UJJAIN (MP)
(PUBLICATION NOTICE UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 CPC)

Process Id-113/25
Peshi Date:- 07/03/2025

RCS A/17/2022 MUKESH -V/s- RUTVI DAVE
RCS A/182022 MUKESH -V/s- NEETA AND OTHERS
RCS A/13/2022 MUKESH -V/s- BHAVNA DAVE AND OTHERS
RCS A/15/2022 MUKESH -V/s- ASHSA DAVE AND OTHERS

NOTICE

To, **Shri Himanshu,** S/o Late Dinesh and **Shrimati Nandini,** W/o Late Dinesh Residence of-47 Manana Marg, Chhota sarafa, Ujjain and Current Address Bengaluru State Karnataka.

Whereas Mukesh S/o Tejulal and others has instituted above mention against you for declaration. You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions on the **07/03/2025** at **11:00 A.M**

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 07/02/2025

Presiding Officer: Smt. SAPNA SHARMA
Court of Civil Judge Class-I (Senior Division)-Tehsil-Tarana, District-Ujjain (MP)

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Asset Recovery Branch, Bengaluru North
No.1234, 1st Floor, 4th Main, Opp: Chandra Layout Bus Stop, Chandra Layout, Bengaluru-560040. Mail ID: arb.bengalurunorth@unionbankofindia.bank

NOTICE TO THE BORROWER INFORMING ABOUT SALE (30 DAYS NOTICE) RULE 6 (2)/8 (6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

1) Borrower: (1) Mr.G.Balaraju, No.72, 2nd Cross, Kempiah Block Palace Orchades Palace, Guttahalli, Bengaluru-562157. **M/s Sindhu Cargo Services Pvt Ltd., (In CIRP represented By IRP Ms. CA Shirley Mathew),** Block No.3, Sindhu Logistics Park, No.34, Nellakunte, Near MVIT College, Bettahalasuru, Hunasemaranahalli Post, Bengaluru-562157. **(For Information) Also at: Ms. CA Shirley Mathew (RP- M/s Sindhu Cargo Services Pvt Ltd)** Registered valuer & Insolvency Professional # 31, wheeler Road Extension St. Thomas Town, Bangalore-560084.**Guarantors: 2(a) Mr. G.Balaraju Chairman & Managing Director(Suspended),** No.72, 2nd Cross, Kempiah Block, Palace Orchades Palace, Guttahalli, Bengaluru-562157. **2(b) Mrs. Vedavathi Balaraju, 2 (c). Mr. B.Gopalappa, Both are residing at:** No.7/2, "AABHYUDAY", 2nd Cross, Kempaiah Block, Lower Palace, Guttahalli, Bengaluru-560003. **2(d). Mr Vikram Prabhakar** S/o Late B L Prabhakar, No.655/6, 7th Cross, Bandappa street Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore – 560 022.

Sale of property belonging to **Mr.G.Balaraju, Mrs. Vedavathi Balaraju and Mr Vikram Prabhakar** for realization of amount due to Bank under the SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Bengaluru North (The account transferred from Cooktown branch to Asset Recovery Branch, Bengaluru North) the secured creditor, caused a demand notice dated **08.05.2024** under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, calling upon you to pay the dues within the time stipulated therein. Since you failed to comply the said notice within the period stipulated, the Authorised Officer, has taken possession of the immovable secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 6/8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on **31.07.2024, 01.08.2024.**

Even after taking possession of the secured asset, you have not paid the amount due to bank. As such, it has become necessary to sell the below mentioned property by holding public e-auction after 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice through online mode. The date and time of e-auction along with the Reserve Price of the property and the details of the service provider, in which the e-auction to be conducted, shall be informed to you separately. Therefore, if you pay the amount due to the bank along with subsequent interest, costs, charges and expenses incurred by bank before the date of publication of sale notice, no further action shall be taken for sale of the property and you can redeem your property as stipulated in sec. 13 (8) of the SARFAESI Act.

Description Of The Secured Assets: (1) Vacant land admeasuring 5802 Sft, situated at Plot Nos.14 ,15,16,17 and 18 in Sy No 146, Amanikandavara kere Village, Nandhi Hobli, Chickaballapur Taluk, Kolar District, belonging to Mr G Balaraju S/o Mr B Gopalappa. **Plot Number 14 – 1305 Sq Ft and bounded by:** East : Site No 11 & 12, West : 20 Feet Road, North : Sundarraj"s Property, South : Site No 15. **Plot Number 15 – 1350 Sq Ft. and bounded by :** East : Site No.12 & 13, West : 20 Feet Road, North : Site No 14, South : 25 Feet Road. **Pot Number 16 – 1062 Sq. Ft and bounded by:** East : 20 Feet Road, West : Shed in Sy no 144, North : Sundarraj"s Land, South : Site No 17. **Plot Number 17 – 1065 Sq.Ft and bounded by:** East : 20 Feet Road, West : Shed in Sy No 144, North : Site No 16, South : Site No 18. **Plot Number 18 – 1020 Sq.Ft and bounded by:** East : 20 feet Road, West : Shed in Sy No 144, North : Site No 17, South : 20 Feet Road. **(2)** Vacant land admeasuring 5300 Sq.Ft situated in Sy No 128/3, Khata No 1042/451, Old Khata No 617/4, Palanahalli, Kattigenahalli Dhakale, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore belonging to Mr G Balaraju S/o Mr B. Gopalappa and bounded by: North : 35 Feet Road in Sy No 128/3, South : Road & Thereafter Kogilu Village Boundary, East : Land in Sy No 128/3 Sold in favour of Smt Nirmala, West : Land in Sy No 128/3 Retained by the Vendor. **(3)** Flat No.101 & 106 in 1st Floor , B-Block, "Connection point" Apartment, Khata No 792/1, 792/2,792/3,and 792/4, Civil Aviation Road, Konena Agrahara, Bangaluru. Undivided share of land is 501.50 sq.ft and the property belonging to Mr G Balaraju S/o Sri Gopalappa & built up area is 1760. **Plot No 101 – 840 Sq.Ft - UDS – 239.50 Sq.Ft and bounded by:** East : Front Porch, West : Passage, North : Property No 5/1, South : Passage. **Plot No 106 – 920 Sq.Ft – UDS – 262.00 Sq Ft. and Bounded by:** East : Front Porch, West : Passage, North : Property No 5/1, South : Passage. **(4)** Vacant Land admeasuring 216 Sq.Mtrs situated at Sy No 1283, 1st Main, 6th Stage, banashankari, Bangalore belonging to Mrs. Vedavathi Balaraju W/o Mr. G Balaraju measuring East to West 12 Meters and North to south 18 Meters and Bounded by: North : Plot No 1300, South : Road, East : Plot No 1282, West : Plot No 1284. (5) Residential land and Building (Stilt+Ground+2 Floors) situated at D No 655/6, Prabhakar Mansion, Muncipal No 3:1:7, PID No. 3-66-3/1-7, 7th Cross Road, New PID No. 037-W0179-2/1, Bandappa Road, Yeshwanthpura, Bangalore belonging to Mr Vikram Prabhakar S/O Late B L Prabhakar. Built up area :4000 Sq.Ft, Site Area : 1965 Sq.Ft and bounded by: East : 5 Feet Galli Road & B L Chandrashekar's Property, West : Sri Jayaramareddy & his Children;s Property (Presently Mr Vikram & Mrs. Aishwarya"s Property), North : Common Passage and Road, South : Vallabharaya's House Property.

Date : 04.02.2025 — **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore — **Union Bank of India**

SREENIDHI SOUHARDA SAHAKARI BANK NIYAMITHA

 # 113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore- 560 004
Phone: 080-25401160-161, 9606018413,
E-mail: sssbn3mrh@sreenidhibank.com

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale of Immovable Property Mortgaged to Bank Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
(No 54 of 2002) -- SARFAESI ACT

Sri.Venkatesh P.M

Smt.Indrani

Whereas **Sri.Venkatesh P.M,** S/o.Muniramaiah, aged about 60 years and Smt.Indrani, W/o.Venkatesh P.M, aged about 49 years, both are residing at No.80, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, Ashwathnagar, Marathahalli, Bengalore -560037, have borrowed monies from M/s.Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, Marathahalli Branch, #95/3, Kote N.C.P.R Tower Building, Outer Ring Road, Opp. Jeevika Hospital, Doddanekkundi, Bangalore-560037 and they owe a sum of **₹.26,11,508/-** (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Eleven Thousand Five Hundred and Eight) only and **₹.9,69,248/-** (Rupees Nine Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Eight) only and both combined together **₹.35,80,756/-** (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Eighty Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Six) only with further interest **@13.00% & 11.00 % respectively as on 06/02/2025.**

Whereas the Authorised Officer of the Bank has issued notice under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and thereafter has taken possession of the property owned by **Sri.Venkatesh P.M,** S/o.Muniramaiah, aged about 60 years, residing at No.80, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, Ashwathnagar, Marathahalli, Bengalore -560037, mortgaged to the Bank and has decided to sell the property, described in Schedule "A" herein below, on **'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS'** under rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

DETAILS OF SALE:

Place of Auction: Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, #113, R.V.Road, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-560004.

Date/Day & time of auction: 13/03/2025 (Thursday) At 11:00 AM.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Vacant Site No.80, Property No.100, Khatha No.3256, Present BBMP Khata No.835/927/80/413/2, Situated at Ashwathanagar,1st Cross, Ward No.86, Munnekolala Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Measuring East to West:40 Feet, and North to South 60 Feet, in all measuring 2400 Sq.ft., and bounded on East By:- 5 feet Passage left in the same property No and thereafter portion of property allotted to the share of P.M Jayaram, West By:- Property belongs to Krishnappa and Ashwathnarayana, North By:- Portion of same Property allotted to the share of Smt.M.Rukmala and South By:- Service Road.

Reserve Price: Rs.1,80,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Lakhs Only)

Terms & Conditions of Auction:

(1) For participating in the auction, the intending bidders have to deposit 10% of reserve price of the property by Bankers cheque/ Demand Draft favouring The Authorised Officer, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, Payable at Bangalore which is refundable, if the bid is not successful.

(2) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance within 15 days. Payment to be made only in the form of bankers cheque/ DD drawn in favour of "The Authorised Officer, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha".

(3) In case the successful bidder fails to deposit 25% of bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance amount within 15 days, the entire deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice.

(4) The successful bidder would bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance such as Stamp duty, Registration fee etc., as applicable as per law.

(5) The Authorised officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Govt. or anybody in respect of the property under sale.

(6) The Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn/ postpone the auction without assigning any reason therefore.

(7) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank.

(8) The auction of the property will be made as per the above order or at the discretion of the Authorised Officer.

(9) For inspection of property, the intending bidders may contact, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, Marathahalli Branch, #95/3, Kote N.C.P.R Tower Building, Outer Ring Road, Opp. Jeevika Hospital, Doddanekkundi, Bangalore – 560037 during the office hours or may contact at telephone No.080 25401160/161/Mob: 9606018413.

Date : 10/02/2025 — **Sd/- (G.Raghunadha Reddy)**
Place : Bangalore — **Authorised Officer**
Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Syndicate Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office : Bangalore

E-AUCTION Sale of Properties on 28.02.2025

Last date of EMD : 27.02.2025

ARM – I Branch, 2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.g. Road, Bangalore – 560001. Ph No. : 080 25310066. E-Mail – cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described imovable propeties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-1,** Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **28.02.2025** at **10:30 AM to 11:00 AM,** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **27.02.2025 5.00 pm.**

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection Date & Time
1.	**1. Mr. Hari Raj S S/o Mr. Susainathan** No. 23/32, KCN Compound 9th Main, 17th Cross Padarayapura, Bangalore-560026. **2. Mrs. Shanthi Nirmala R W/o Hariraj** No. 23/32, KCN Compound 9th Main, 17th Cross Padarayapura, Bangalore-560026.	Flat no 404 Third floor **SAMPRUTHI ENCLAVE** Nagadevanahalli village kengeri hobil situated at padma uadyaya layout , formed in Sy nos 31,32/1 and 35 duly converted into non agricultural land conversion certificate no ALN. SR. 2017/ 1970-71 OF Nagadevanahalli Village Kengeri Hobil, Plinth area/Super Built up area for flat 1078 Sq.ft. Total Carpet area is 808.50 Sq.ft, Undivided area is 254 Sq.ft. PRESENTLY COMING UNDER THE LIMIT OF BBMP AMALGAMATED KHATA NO 2561/2047/4/31,32/1,35/224,223,195 &, 196 and bounded on:**East :** Flat No.403, **West :** Road, **North :** Flat No.407 and **South :** Setback **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.905917 Longitude- 77.499222**	**Rs. 81,18,546.38** as on **09.02.2025** plus further interest and cost thereon	**a) ₹ 40.15 b) ₹ 4.01 c) ₹ 1.00**	**21.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer
2.	**1. Sri Nandana M Hanumantha S/o Hanumantha** No. 132, 4th Cross, Vinayaka Lank View Layout, KanishiramNagara, Vidyaranyapura Layout, Bengaluru-560047.	Flat no 202 first floor SAMPRUTHI ENCLAVE Nagadevanahalli village kengerihobil situated at padmauadyaya layout , formed in Synos 31,32/1 and 35 duly converted into non agricultural land conversion certificate no ALN. SR.2017/ 1970-71 OF Nagadevanahalli Village Kengeri Hobil Total Mesuring 8400 SQFT, Plinth area/Super Built up area for flat 995 Sq.ft. PRESENTLY COMING UNDER THE LIMIT OF BBMP AMALGAMATED KHATA NO 2561/2047/4/31, 32/1, 35/224, 223, 195 &, 196 and bounded on: **East:** Road, **West :** road, **North** : site no 197 & site no 222 and **South :** Site no 194 & site no 225. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.935568 Longitude- 77.498608**	**Rs. 70,95,003.70** with further interest and cost thereon.	**a) ₹ 37.04 b) ₹ 3.70 c) ₹ 1.00**	**14.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626,7483935007,9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore — **Sd/- Authorized Officer,**
Date : 10.02.2025 — **Canara Bank**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

SyndicateBank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

E-Auction Sale of Properties on 28.02.2025

Last date of EMD : 27.02.2025

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080 25310066. E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 28.02.2025 (Sl. No.1 & 2- 10.00 AM to 10.30 AM) (Sl. No.3- 11.30 AM TO 12.00 AM),** through E-Auction underthe Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.080-25310066, 9627872626, 7483935007,9538406090 and 9598559920** during office hours on any working day.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **27.02.2025 - 5.00 pm** **(₹. in lakhs)**

Lot No	Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable/movable assets:	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection date & time
1.	**(1) Sri Sapthagiri Agro**, Plot No. 3D & 133B, I & II phase KIADB Industrial Area, Antharasanahalli Tumkur-572106. **(2) Mrs. Vanitha Rani (Partner)** W /o Sridhar Babu K S Sapthagiri Nilaya 4th cross, Near Water Tank Vidyanagar Tumkur-572101 **(3) Mr. Sridhar Babu K S (Partner)** S /o Srinivas Shetty KS, Sapthagiri Nilaya 4th cross, Near Water Tank Vidyanagar Tumkur 572101. **Note: The person who wishes to bid for lot No. 1 has to invariably bid for lot 2 property also. Bid for lot No. 1 alone will not be accepted. However, bid for only lot No. 2 can be submitted.**	(I) Land and Building situated at plot bearing No. 3-D, Sy. 21 & 23, measuring 50.80x136.40+132.7/2 meters totally measuring 6784 Sq.mtrs, situated at KIADB Industrial Area, 1st Phase, Antharasanahalli, Tumkur in the name of Sri Sapthagiri Agro Industry. (ii) Land and Building of 2 acres situated at the Industrial land bearing plot No. 133-B, KIADB Industrial Area, Antharasanahalli, Tumkur-572106. In the name of Sri Sapthagiri Agro Industry. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 13.383357N Longitude- 77.099993E**	**Rs. 2031303113.13 with further interest and cost thereon. Physical Possession**	**a) ₹. 1210.00 b) ₹. 121.00 c) ₹.1.00**	**14.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**
		Hypothecation of plant and machineries and Misc. Fixed Asset as such as Bunkers & Accessories, Electrical Equipment's. In the name of Sri Sapthagiri Agro Industry. **Coordinates of the property . Latitude- 13.383357N Longitude- 77.099993E**		**a) ₹. 1179.00 b) ₹. 118.00 c) ₹.1.00**	
2.	**1. M/s Padmavathi Agro Exports, Rep by its partners**: **Mr. K K Naveen. Mr. T P Vikram,** Unit: Opp State ware House, B H Road Tumkur-572101, Also at: 5th Main, APMC Yard Batwadi, Tumkur- 572 106, **2. Mr K K Naveen** S/o Mr K S Krishna Murthy, 448, Pete Beedi, Chikkanayakanahalli, Tumkur District-572214, **3. Mr. T P Vikram** S/o Mr Bhadrachala Setty, Venkateshapura, Sira Gate, Tumkur 572101, **4. Mr. Sridhar Babu K.S**. S/o Mr Srinivas Setty K S, No.101, 4th Cross, Sapthagiri Nilaya, Vidyanagara, Tumkur-572101, **5. Mrs K.S Vanitha Rani** W/o Mr Sridhar Babu K.S, No.101, 4th Cross, Sapthagiri Nilaya Vidyanagara, Tumkur-572101.	Residential House property bearing Khata No.8731/1538, 8731B/1538B, New Corporation Khatha No.1731*b/1538/2791 PID No.25144 at Vidyanagara, Near Water Tank, Tumkur in the name of Vanitha Rani KS W/o K S Sridhar Babu. Total Extent of the plot 1500 Sq.ft **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 13.337000 Longitude- 77.124556**	**Rs. 549847144.08 with further interest and cost thereon. Physical Possession**	**a) ₹. 118.58 b) ₹. 11.86 c) ₹.1.00**	**14.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**
		Industrial Land site No.113-A-P3 in Sy.No.63 at Antharasanahalli Industrial Area, 2nd phase Thimlapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Tumkur in the name of M/s Sapthagiri Agro Industry. In the name of M/s Padmavathi. Total Extent of the plot 32172 Sq.ft. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 13.383361 Longitude-77.100000**		**a) ₹. 194.03 b) ₹. 19.40 c) ₹.1.00**	
3.	**(1) Savithri Jewellers Pvt. Ltd., (2) Mrs. Deepa Vernekar** W/o Mr. Prashant Wandkar, Director Savithri Jewellers Pvt.Ltd, **(3) Ms. Shilpa Vernaker** D/o Mr. Suresh Vernekar, Director Savithri Jewellers Pvt.Ltd, **(4) Mr. Kishore Vernekar** S/o Mr.Suresh Vernekar, **(5) Sri Suresh Vernekar** S/o Mr. Dattatray Vernekar, **All are residing at:** No.165, Maauli Mantralaya, Lakshmi Teimple Road, Hindwadi, Belgaum, Karnataka-590011.	Property bearing R S No. 59/1 measuring 1 acres situated at Madhavapura, Belguam and bounded on the : East by : R S No. 58, West by : R S No.76, North by : R S No. 57 and South by : R S No.77. Coordinates of the property : **Latitude- 15.8355970, Longitude- 74.5308150**	**Rs. 422247520.62 with further interest and cost thereon. Symbolic Possession**	**a) ₹. 207.80 b) ₹. 20.78 c) ₹.1.00**	**21.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.080-25310066, 9627872626,7483935007,9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bengaluru **Date : 10.02.2025** — **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank**

ABSTRACT

Extent of impact: A family watches *Ramayan* after it was revived during the pandemic in Jammu, in 2020. AP

How the Ramayan TV show helped shape a singular nationwide Hindu identity

In a way, the mass dissemination of a standardised story of Ram couldn't have come at a better time for the advocates of Hindutva, as it helped prime a diverse Hindu population brought up on regional variations of the epic, for the unitary ideology of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement

G. Sampath

Ahmed, Resuf, Paul Brimble, Akhila Kovvuri, Alessandro Saia, Dean Yang. 2025. 'Ancient Epics in the Television Age: Mass media, Identity, and the Rise of Hindu Nationalism in India.' *National Bureau of Economic Research*, Cambridge, MA. Working Paper 33417.

The broadcast of the *Ramayan* television series happened at a pivotal moment in India's media and cultural history. It aired from January 1987 to July 1988. This was a time when television signal reception was expanding but still limited. So for a substantial mass of the population, their very first exposure to this novel medium was the televised adaptation of the ancient Hindu epic. Combined with a gigantic viewership and the religious dimension, it caused the serial to have an outsized impact on its audiences.

Exploiting this aspect – the "geographical and over-time variation in television signal strength" – to identify "the causal effects of exposure to the *Ramayan* TV show, the authors of this paper pose the question: "Can exposure to religious narratives through mass media shape cultural identities and, in turn, influence political landscapes?"

There already exists a body of research that says 'yes'. For instance, it is not a matter of debate that the *Ramayan* broadcast aided the rise of Hindu nationalism. It did. This study, by "examining the long-term effects of the *Ramayan* broadcast on cultural, social, and political outcomes," seeks to bridge the "several interconnected strands" of this literature. Its unique methodology hinges on leveraging variations in TV signal strength across India to track how "exposure" to the *Ramayan* serial "affected cultural norms, communal relations, and voting behaviour in the years that followed."

How the show affected cultural behaviour

The paper offers three key findings. First, areas with "higher Ramayan exposure (higher TV signal strength in 1987) experienced significant changes in cultural practices indicating a strengthening of religious identity." This study tracked two cultural practices – naming of new-borns, and diet in lower-caste households – and both revealed significant changes. "Hindu parents became more likely to give their newborn sons common Hindu names, and lower-caste households showed increased adherence to orthodox Hindu dietary practices (a substantial increase in vegetarianism)."

Secondly, areas with higher exposure to *Ramayan* witnessed a "short-term" increase in Hindu-Muslim communal violence through 1992.

And finally, the study found a "long-term" effect (through to 2000) on electoral outcomes, with the Hindu nationalist BJP gaining an increase in its probability of winning assembly elections in areas that had higher *Ramayan* exposure.

In this context, one question automatically comes up: how do we know if the effects attributed to *Ramayan* exposure are not also an outcome of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, which was gaining steam around the same time? The authors isolate the 'Ramayan effect' using a control variable "measuring proximity to the travelling mobilisation rallies known as the Ram Rath Yatra (held in 1990)". By doing so, they found that the "estimated effects of exposure to *Ramayan* starting in 1987 do not appear to be confounded by exposure to the Ram Rath Yatra, the key event in advancing the Ram Janmabhoomi movement."

Consolidating a singular identity

Pointing out that prior to *Ramayan*'s introduction, there had never been a TV show in India with a religious theme, the paper notes that the *Ramayan* series "represented a step-function in religious TV content". To document this quantitatively, the authors "collected data on all 176 television serials broadcast on Indian public networks since 1980". There were zero religious shows prior to 1987. This was another factor that amplified *Ramayan*'s unique impact, given that its viewership, too, was "unprecedented in India", with an estimated 80 million people tuning in to watch each episode.

At its peak, over 100 million viewers were watching *Ramayan* simultaneously at a time when there were only 30 million television sets in India. This is explained by the phenomenon of "community viewing" wherein people gathered in "large groups around a single television set, often in public spaces or at homes of neighbours who owned TVs". As a result, "for the first time, all Hindus across the country saw and at the same time listened to the same thing". The serial "introduced a congregational imperative into Hinduism" and "provided a unifying narrative that transcended local differences".

In a way, the mass dissemination of a standardised story of Ram, an avatar of the Hindu god Vishnu, couldn't have come at a better time for the advocates of Hindutva, as it helped prime a diverse Hindu population brought up on regional and linguistic variations of the epic, for the unitary ideology of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. Interestingly, as the paper underscores, the political impact of the series was likely unintended by the government. "At the time of the broadcast, the national government was led by the Congress party and not the BJP" and the "primary motivation for airing *Ramayan* was to increase advertising revenue for the state-owned television network." In fact, the show's creator Ramanand Sagar had to contend with much scepticism from officials and lobby extensively to get the show approved for broadcast.

Based on their findings, which revealed a strengthening of Hindu religious identity as indicated by shifts to popular Hindu names for new-borns, switching to vegetarianism, and changes in long-term political preferences, the authors contend that "the content of mass media can have far-reaching consequences beyond mere entertainment, potentially shaping the cultural and political landscape of a nation for years to come."

This empirical study is an important intervention at a time when the Indian media landscape, especially news television, is marked by the perverse phenomenon of polarising communal rhetoric beamed out to millions on a daily basis. It also opens up avenues for future inquiry.

For instance, given the rising trend of majoritarian propaganda films coming from Bollywood, how does a certain "narrative structure, character portrayal, and symbolic imagery activate particular social identities?" And how does the mode of consumption – viewing such content as a "communal experience" in a cinema hall or multiplex versus individually – affect its impact on beliefs and group identity? Such investigations could illuminate the mechanisms through which sustained media exposure to particular kinds of cultural and religious content shapes personal identity and political alignments.

As the paper concludes, "The story of the Ramayan broadcast serves as a powerful reminder of the responsibility that comes with the power to shape narratives and, by extension, the cultural and political future of a nation."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Listen to an extract from an essay..."

Most people who bother with the matter at all would admit that the English language is in a bad way, but it is generally assumed that we cannot by conscious action do anything about it. Our civilisation is decadent and our language – so the argument runs – must inevitably share in the general collapse. It follows that any struggle against the abuse of language is a sentimental archaism, like preferring candles to electric light or hansom cabs to aeroplanes. Underneath this lies the half conscious belief that language is a natural growth and not an instrument which we shape for our own purposes. Now, it is clear that the decline of a language must ultimately have political and economic causes: it is not due simply to the bad influence of this or that individual writer. But an effect can become a cause, reinforcing the original cause and producing the same effect in an intensified form, and so on indefinitely. A man may take to drink because he feels himself to be a failure, and then fail all the more completely because he drinks. It is rather the same thing that is happening to the English language. It becomes ugly and inaccurate because our thoughts are foolish, but the slovenliness of our language makes it easier for us to have foolish thoughts. The point is that the process is reversible. Modern English, especially written English, is full of bad habits spread by imitation and which can be avoided if one is willing to take the necessary trouble. If one gets rid of these habits one can think more clearly, and to think clearly is a necessary first step towards political regeneration: so that the fight against bad English is not frivolous and is not the exclusive concern of professional writers.

I am going to translate a passage of good English into modern English of the worst sort. Here is a well-known verse from Ecclesiastes: I returned and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

Here it is in modern English: Objective considerations of contemporary phenomena compels the conclusion that success or failure in competitive activities exhibits no tendency to be commensurate with innate capacity, but that a considerable element of the unpredictable must invariably be taken into account.

If you simplify your English, you are free from the worst follies of orthodoxy. You cannot speak any of the necessary dialects and when you make a stupid remark its stupidity will be obvious, even to yourself. Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind. One cannot change one's habits, and from time to time one can even send some worn-out and useless phrase – some "jackboot, Achilles' heel, hotbed, melting pot, acid test, veritable Inferno" or other lump of verbal refuse – into the dustbin where it belongs.

"Beautiful. Who wrote it?"

"George Orwell. The extract is from his *Politics and the English language*."

Published in The Hindu on May 2, 1995.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Super Bowl is a rare event where the sporting world and the music industry clash, with halftime shows overshadowing the game. Here is a quiz on the event

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
This pop singer was brought in to perform at halftime in 1993 following a decline in post-break viewership the previous year. Name the artist.

QUESTION 2
This artist was picked up by a helicopter from stage for her exit at the 1996 Super Bowl. Name the artist and the outro song.

QUESTION 3
Name the hit TV show and the episode which was aired as a lead-out after the game in 1996.

QUESTION 4
What was the halftime event during the first Super Bowl in 1967?

QUESTION 5
Name the artist who revealed her pregnancy to the world during her halftime performance?

Visual question:
Name the singer and his song which got a rare collaboration from nature during the 2007 halftime show. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This State has won the Ranji Trophy eight times. **Ans: Karnataka**
2. Among active cricketers, this person holds the record for the most runs in the trophy. **Ans: Cheteswar Pujara**
3. This batsman, during the 1948-49 Ranji Trophy season, was just nine runs short of the then batting record held by Sir Don Bradman. **Ans: B.B. Nimbalkar**
4. This erstwhile Test cricketer held the Bradmanesque average of 98.35 after scoring 3,639 runs in the Ranji Trophy. **Ans: Vijay Merchant**
5. This distinction is jointly shared by Premangsu Chatterjee of Bengal and Pradeep Sunderam of Rajasthan in the Ranji Trophy. **Ans: Both of them picked all the 10 wickets in an innings. Chatterjee (10/20) and Sunderam (10/78)**
Visual: Identify this bowler and the State/team he represented. **Ans: Rajinder Goel, Haryana**
Early Birds: Mohan Lal Patel| Tamal Biswas| Arun Kumar Singh| Parimal Das| Sumana Dutta

Word of the day

Malapropism:
the unintentional misuse of a word with one that sounds similar

Synonym: misstatement

Pronunciation: newsth.live/malapropismpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈmæləpɹɒpˌɪzəm/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Researchers develop tool to help stroke survivors recover cognitive functions

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Introducing a cutting-edge approach to neurorehabilitation, a team of psychologists from Indore, one of whom was formerly with NIMHANS, have developed an innovative tool to help stroke survivors recover cognitive functions.

Their study, published last month in *Scientific Reports*, a Nature journal, has offered new hope to stroke survivors. Cognitive impairment is a common consequence of stroke,

Cognitive impairment is a common consequence of stroke. GETTY IMAGES

characterised by deficits in cognitive functioning, language and functional abilities. Innovative technological approaches, such as computerised cognitive retraining, offer promising strategies for mitigating cognitive challenges. However, despite their potential, the impact of these interventions on neuropsychological function and daily living capabilities has poor outcomes.

To address these challenges, a team led by Amit Kumar Soni from Government MLB Girls PG College and Devi Ahilya University developed Computer-Adaptive Cognitive Training, a tool that provides personalised rehabilitation.

"The CACT tool functions like a game, adapting in real-time to the patient's abilities. It targets critical cognitive skills such as memory, attention, and problem-solving through tailored exercises. Unlike one-size-fits-all solutions, CACT ensures that patients are consistently challenged without feeling overwhelmed," explained Dr. Soni, who was formerly with NIMHANS.

The research involved 50 male participants recovering from recent strokes. "In this randomised controlled trial, we assessed the effectiveness of a four-week, remotely-delivered, multi-domain, computer-adaptive cognitive retraining (CACT) programme in patients with post-stroke cognitive impairment. The participants were randomly assigned to either the experimental group, which underwent the CACT program tailored to individual performance levels, or an active control group that received standard care.," the doctor said.

The evaluation focused on neuropsychological functions such as attention, memory, and executive processes, alongside daily living skills. Results indicated that participants in the CACT group exhibited notable improvements in several cognitive areas, including processing speed, category fluency, and visual confrontation naming when compared to the control group. Nonetheless, enhancements in functional abilities, encompassing basic and instrumental activities of daily living (ADL), were minimal, with no significant changes reported post-intervention.

Highlighting the importance of these findings, Dr. Soni said: "CACT offers a unique blend of accessibility and personalisation. By adjusting tasks to individual abilities, it ensures that each patient can achieve meaningful cognitive recovery."

While cognitive improvements were clear, the study noted minimal impact on everyday tasks like managing finances or cooking.

Mohit Kumar from AIIMS Bhopal, a key collaborator on the project, said the CACT system has the potential to transform neurorehabilitation worldwide. "Its home-based design makes it accessible to patients who cannot visit clinics regularly, and its affordability ensures that cost is no longer a barrier to recovery. Hospitals, clinics, and rehabilitation centres globally can integrate CACT into their services, extending its benefits to a broader population," the doctor said.

Probe launched after KIA gets threat mail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport authorities got an email threatening of drone attacks on flights landing at KIA, apart from airports in "Chennai and Kerala" recently. Coming ahead of Aero India - 2025, it triggered concerns. However, security personnel followed all the Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) and later declared the email a hoax.

Mohammed Zahir, an airport staff, lodged a complaint with the International Airport Police on Sunday, in which he said the email came from mahanteshs 6899@proton.me. It warned of an impending drone attack on the flights landing at Bengaluru, Chennai and Kerala airports, if he did not get a response to his letter to Haveri BJP MP and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

The police are now trying to track down the source of the email, which was intended to create panic among passengers and staff. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case against an unidentified person charging him under Sections 125 (endangering safety of others), 351 (criminal intimidation), and 353 (public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 for further investigation.

MACT judges need training to properly assess functional disability: High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The judges of the Motor Accident Claims Tribunals (MACT) will have to be sensitised on the requirement of ascertaining functional disability, with reference to avocation of claimant, from the nature of physical disabilities caused due to injuries suffered in the accidents. This is necessary for proper calculation of compensation for loss of income due to functional disabilities, said the High Court of Karnataka.

"In umpteen numbers of judgments of the tribunals, it is observed that the nature of the injuries and the manner how it would translate into functional disability are seldom discussed. The tribunals are jumping to the conclusion on the basis the disability stated by a medical officer," the court said.

Justice C.M. Joshi passed the order while reducing the compensation awarded by a MACT in Bidar from ₹9.36 lakh to ₹2.68 lakh, for loss of income due to functional disability caused owing to injuries to an accident victim. The court said the tribunal had not properly considered the nature of injuries caused to the claimant.

"Non-mentioning of the nature of the injuries suffered, or describing them simply as grievous or simple, would not reflect that the tribunals have applied their mind to the nature of the injuries in ascertaining functional disabilities," the court said.

Therefore, the court said: "it is expected from the tribunals that the nature of the injuries suffered and the manner how it will translate into functional disability is to be stated, in the facts and circumstances, especially with reference to the avocation of the claimant."

"It is also obvious that the medical officers would give their opinion in respect of the physical disability, but they are not capable of giving the functional disability as the avocation of the injured is not brought before them," Justice Joshi said while pointing out that the tribunals will have act on the principles laid down by the apex court judgments on how the percentage of loss of earning capacity is not the same as the percentage of physical disability.

The High Court said it is necessary that judges of the tribunals are sensitised with the requirement of mentioning the nature of the injuries suffered by the injured in their judgments as without the description of injuries and co-relating it to the disability, it is not possible to infer that the tribunals had applied their mind to assess the functional disability.

The court directed its registry to send the copy of the order to the Karnataka Judicial Academy to devise training programmes to sensitise judges of tribunals in this regard.

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Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Grand opening of
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Special video address by
Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi

Tuesday, 11 February 2025
at 10:00 am, Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi

70,000+	6,000+	500+	10+	700+	100+
Energy Professionals	Conference Delegates	Conference Speakers	Country Pavilions	Exhibiting Companies	Conference Sessions

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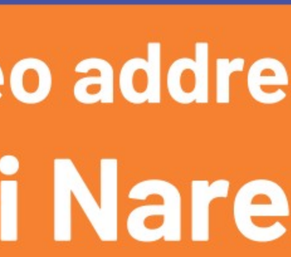
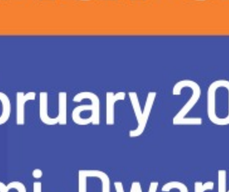
- LPG connections increased by 127% to 33 crore to ensure universal clean cooking gas access
- PNG connections increased 6-fold to 1.33 crore, bringing convenience of households
- Surpassed 19% ethanol blending to reach target well before time, boosting forex savings and farmers' income
- Solar power capacity increased 32-times to 100 GW, advancing clean energy goals
- Tripled non-fossil fuel energy capacity, paving the path towards 500 GW by 2030
- Free solar power to 1 crore households by March 2027 under PM Surya Ghar Yojana





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Visit www.indiaenergyweek.com or scan the QR Code to know more.
Watch live telecast of the event on DD News Youtube Channel
DD NEWS

INBRIEF

Anganwadi workers suspended for branding child

An anganwadi worker and assistant have been suspended for branding a child with a hot ladle in Gulagala Jambagi village of Bagalkot district. Shobha Holeppanavar and Sharavva Panchagavi have been suspended pending detailed inquiry. They face the charge of branding Preeti Bagali, who was attending the anganwadi, as they were upset with her incessant crying. She suffered minor burns and was treated as an out-patient. Child Development Programme officer Kashibai Karagol conducted a search of the anganwadi following a complaint by villagers. A report has been sent to the Deputy Director of Women and Child Welfare, officers said.

KLEF bribery case: NAAC adviser suspended

In connection with the Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF) bribery case, NAAC adviser M.S. Shyamsundar has been suspended. Sources in NAAC have confirmed the suspension. However, when *The Hindu* called the chairman and the director of NAAC, they did not respond. In connection with the bribery case, the CBI arrested six people, including Gayatri Devaraj, professor of Davangere University and member of NAAC inspection committee. The CBI has registered a case against 14 people, including M. Hanumanthappa, from the Department of Computer Science, Bangalore University. However, Mr. Hanumanthappa hasn't been suspended yet.

Applications invited for 'Play Translation Fellowship'

Bahuvachana and Tamaasha Studio Foundation are inviting applications for its Play Translation Fellowship aimed at translators passionate about theatre and translation. The fellowship offers an opportunity to translate Marathi plays into Kannada Three translators will be selected for this fellowship, with the possibility of a shared project between two individuals. The selected fellows will participate in a 15-day residency near Bengaluru, with travel, food, and accommodation expenses covered. Fellows will also receive a grant of ₹30,000 upon submission of the final manuscript. During the residency, fellows are expected to complete a rough draft, with an additional three weeks allocated for finalising the translation. The deadline to apply is February 28. Send applications to bahuvachanatamaasha@gmail.com.

Metro fare hike sparks concerns over increase in traffic congestion

With end-to-end fares increasing from ₹120 to ₹180, many are now reconsidering their daily travel choices and are opting for shared cabs and autos, while some are choosing their personal vehicles

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Commuters are expressing growing concerns that the recent hike in Namma Metro fares will push more people to use personal vehicles, exacerbating the city's already severe traffic congestion.

With end-to-end fares increasing from ₹120 to ₹180, many are now reconsidering their daily travel choices and are opting for shared cabs and autorickshaws, which have become a more economical option for families travelling together, while a few people are choosing their own personal vehicles.

Monika C.G., an engineering student from Hosahalli, shared how the hike had impacted her daily expenses. "Earlier, I used to pay ₹28 for a one-way trip to National College in Jayanagar. Now, I have to pay ₹48, which means my daily travel cost has risen from ₹56 to ₹96 – a staggering 71% increase."

Bengaluru's road network spans approximately 14,000 km and accommodates an overwhelming 1.2 crore registered vehicles. The city also has the highest number of registered two-wheelers in India, with 82 lakh vehicles. According to a recent global traffic index for 2024 by Tom Tom, a Dutch location technology firm, Bengaluru's average duration to traverse 10 km was 30 minutes and 10 seconds.

With the latest revision, Bengaluru metro has become the most expensive in India. FILE PHOTO

The increased metro fares are expected to deter some commuters from using public transport, forcing them to rely on personal vehicles or costlier last-mile transport options. "With metro fares going up, many people like me will think twice before using it daily. If this pushes more people toward two-wheelers, we will see traffic getting even worse," said Prashanth R., a software professional who commutes from Yeshwantpur to Indiranagar daily.

Like other metro cities, Bengaluru does not have a shared autorickshaw system. The inadequate Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) feeder bus service further limits connectivity options, forcing commuters to depend on expensive autorickshaws, cabs, or bike taxis for their first and last-mile travel. Those using personal vehicles also face parking charges at metro stations, adding to the overall cost of commuting.

The fare increase has sparked public outrage, with many netizens launching the #RevokeMetroFareHike campaign.

Rajkumar Dugar, founder of Citizens for Citizens, strongly criticised the fare hike, calling it a "highly retrograde step" by the government. "The common man is hit very hard. Instead of spending ₹40,000 crore on a 46-km tunnel road project, the government should subsidise all public transport. They claim they want to increase public transport usage, but in reality, they are implementing anti-public transport policies. Brace for even higher congestion on roads," Mr. Dugar said.

With the latest revision, Bengaluru metro has become the most expensive metro system in India. The maximum fare has increased from ₹60 to ₹90, making it significantly costlier than metro systems in other major cities. Delhi metro charges ₹60 for trips beyond 32 km, while Chennai metro charges ₹50. In Kolkata, the highest fare for distances between 25 and 30 km is just ₹25, lowest in the country.

Adding to commuter frustration, BMRCL has scrapped QR code discounts, now limiting the 5% discount only to smart card users. Meanwhile, metro systems in Chennai and Kochi continue to offer a 20% discount on smart cards, QR codes, and WhatsApp tickets.

BMRCL has also increased the minimum balance requirement for smart cards from ₹50 to ₹90, making it more expensive for occasional metro users.

"This is nothing but a money grab," said Sunil K., a daily commuter from Banashankari to Peenya. "They increased fares, reduced discounts, and now even the minimum balance has gone up. Other metros offer better deals to encourage ridership, but here, everything is becoming costlier."

Political tussle breaks out

BJP workers protesting in front of Jayanagar metro station on Monday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The recent fare hike by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) has sparked a political tussle between the Congress and the BJP in Karnataka, with both parties blaming the other for the fare hike.

On Monday, BJP leaders, including Ravi Subramanya, MLA, met BMRCL MD and submitted a memorandum demanding rollback of the hike.

Speaking to the media, Mr. Subramanya criticised the Congress government, stating: "BMRCL is not here to generate profit; it is a public transport system meant to serve the people. However, the Congress government is burdening citizens by increasing fares. The Congress in Karnataka has raised the prices of essential commodities, from milk to alcohol, and now from bus to metro fares, making life difficult for the people."

The Congress, in response, denied the BJP's allegations and argued that the fare hike was not a decision of the State government. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said, "BMRCL revised fares following recommendations from the fare fixation committee, which was constituted by the BJP-led Centre on September 7, 2024. Let the BJP explain to the people who are actually responsible for the increase in metro fares."

Further defending the Congress government, Mr. Reddy pointed out that if the State was responsible for the fare revision, then why had P.C. Mohan, Bengaluru Central MP, written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking a reduction in metro fares recently.

Mr. Mohan recently claimed that the Union government had put the proposed 45% fare hike on hold. "The Modi government has directed BMRCL to submit a comprehensive report before making any decision. A big win for the people of Bengaluru – ensuring transparency, accountability, and fair metro pricing," Mr. Mohan wrote on his official X account. However, a week later the fare hike was implemented, indicating the hike was cleared by the Union government.

BJP workers staged protests at multiple metro stations across the city, including Jayanagar, Vijayanagar, Dasarahalli, Madawara, Halasuru, and Kengeri bus terminal, on Monday evening.

Devotees take holy dip as T. Narsipur Kumbh Mela begins

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The 13th Kumbh Mela at T. Narsipur – which is at the confluence of the Cauvery, Kapila, and the mythical and invisible Spatika Sarovara – began on Monday.

People prayed at Agastyeshwara, Gunja Narasimhaswamy, Chowdeshwari and Hanuman temples before setting out for the bathing ghats to take a holy dip. There were religious rites. including 'Gana Homa' at Agastyeshwara temple followed by 'maha mangalaarti'.

Devotees gathered in large numbers at the bathing ghat of the Triveni Sangam at T. Narsipur in Mysuru district on Monday. M.A. SRIRAM

Seers, including Someshwaranath Swami of the Mysuru branch of Adi Chunchanagari Mutt and others led the devotees in taking the holy dip to mark the inauguration of the three-day event.

Located about 35 km from Mysuru, T. Narsipur is considered as sacred as Prayagraj in view of the confluence of the three rivers. Besides, the town has a hoary past and is replete with ancient temples, of which the Gunja Narasimhaswamy temple on the banks of the Cauvery and Agastyaehwara temple, are the most famous; the latter being associated with sage Agastya.

The Kumbh Mela here is of recent origin and began in 1989 at the initiative of Suttur seer Shivaratri Deshikendra Swami and other seers. The objective is to encourage the devout to take a dip at the confluence of the three rivers at T. Narsipur in case they are unable to make it to the Kumbh Melas that take place at Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain or Nashik.

As a result, the Kumbh Mela at T. Narsipur takes place once in three years, coinciding with the event at the four places where the tradition has a hoary past.

The district administration has made elaborate arrangements for the event and 1,200 police personnel have been deployed to prevent any untoward incident.

The Kumbh Punya Snana is slated to take place on February 12 from 9 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and from noon to 1 p.m.

TAMIL NADU STATE MARKETING CORPORATION LIMITED
The Senior Regional Manager Office,
305A, Vilankurichi road, Old Chindhamani, Co-operative society godown, Peelamedu, Coimbatore – 641004

Tender ID:012/2025/A3, **e-TENDER NOTIFICATION** Date : 10.02.2025

Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation, Coimbatore Region consists of six Districts (i.e Coimbatore (North), Coimbatore (South), Thiruppur, Erode, The Nilgiris and Karur). Liquor Retail Vending shops are functioning in those Districts buy back the empty liquor bottles from the customers. Online tender is invited for those collected empty liquor bottles for selling by the Senior Regional Manager, Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation, Coimbatore Region.

e-Tender Notification announced on **11.02.2025 - 11.00 F.N.** Tender Documents may be downloaded/uploaded in the TamilNadu State Government Website **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.**

Completed tender document Technical Bid and Financial Bid may be submitted by the tenderes in the above mentioned Website on or before **12.03.2025 - 04.00 P.M.**

S. No	Tender Bid Type	e-Tender Opening Details		
		Place	Date	Time
1	Technical Bid	Senior Regional Manager Office, 305A, Vilankurichi road, Old Chindhamani, Co-operative society godown, Peelamedu, Coimbatore – 641004	12.03.2025	05.00 PM
2	Financial Bid		Date and time will be intimated later to the successful tenderers in the Technical Bid.	

DIPR/ 532 /TENDER/2025

District Revenue Officer/Senior Regional Manager,
TASMAC Ltd., Coimbatore

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, RPRC, BHUBANESWAR
(e-mail Id: rprcbbsr@gmail.com)
Tel-(0674)-2557925

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. RPRC/19/2024-25

Notice No - 227 / RPRC Date : 10.02.2025

1.	Name of the Project	:	Improvement of Electrical systems inside the Campus of RPRC, Bhubaneswar
2.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs.140.63 lakhs
3.	Period of Completion	:	6 (Six) Calendar months
4.	Class of Contractor	:	Valid MV or MV/HT License Holder
5.	Availability of bid document	:	11.02.2025/10.00 A.M. to 03.02.25/10.00 A.M. in website www.rprcbbsr.in / e-portal https://rprc.ewizard.in.
6.	Opening of (Technical Bid)	:	03.03.2025 / 11.00 AM

New Bidders to register on the portal https://rprc.ewizard.in and send a mail to eprochelpdesk.101@gmail.com with details. For queries on registration & online tender submission contact to: Mr. Shivendra Kumar, Mobile - 9355030613 and Jitesh Kumar, Mobile - 9355030604, e-mail : eprochelpdesk.101@gmail.com

CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
RPRC, BHUBANESWAR.

MM- OIPR-08004/11/0018/2425

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, FEB. 11		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:24
RISE	17:28	SET 05:46
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:24
RISE	18:21	SET 06:31
THURSDAY, FEB. 13		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:25
RISE	19:11	SET 07:12

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	22
Mysuru	33	16
Bengaluru	31	17

Bengaluru Today
31°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be slight cool. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Tiger found dead near Belur

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A tiger was found dead at Ramadevara Halla near Belur in Hassan district on Sunday evening. After a preliminary examination, the experts suspected that it must have died three to four days ago due to 'starvation'.

The residents spotted the carcass of the animal in a waterbody and informed the Forest Department officials.

Residents spotted the carcass in a waterbody. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Independent report

The officials reached the spot by late evening and scheduled a post-mortem for Monday. According to the officials, the tiger, aged about three to four years, had been spotted in forest patches of Hassan and Belur taluk since August 2024. Veterinarians from Bhadra Tiger Reserve, Hassan Veterinary College, and Veterinary Hospital in Belur conducted the post-mortem in the presence of senior officers of the Forest Department and a wildlife activist nominated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The representative of the NTCA would file an independent report on the post-mortem to the NTCA.

Sourabh Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests of Hassan division, told *The Hindu* that preliminary examination suggested that the animal died three to four days ago. The lower portion of the carcass, which was submerged in water, had decomposed.

"As its stomach was empty, experts suggested it could have died due to starvation. We have collected samples for examination," he said.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Regional Office West,
Chitrapur Mutt Complex, Malleswaram 15th Cross,
Bangalore-560055

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8 (1)] (For immovable Property)

Whereas The undersigned being the authorized Officer of the **Canara Bank, Regional Office West** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **25.10.2024** calling upon the Borrower **(1) M/s Ashoka Industries and Technology,** 2nd Stage, 85A, Industrial Suburb, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru-560022 **(2) Mr. Krishna N** S/o Narayanaswamy #10/10, Channigappa Industrial Estate, Vishwaneedam, Sunkadakatte Post, Bengaluru-560091 repay the amount mentioned in the notice of **Rs.92,16,225.85** (Rupees Ninety Two Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Five Rupees and Eighty Five paise Only)as on **24.10.2024** and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this **10th day of February 2025.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Canara Bank, Sadashivanagar Branch** for an amount of **Rs.92,16,225.85** (Rupees Ninety Two Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Five Rupees and Eighty Five paise Only)as on **24.10.2024** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of Secured Assets

All that piece and parcel of the Industrial Plot No. B-54 in the Industrial Estate developed by KSSIDC known as " Kudumalakunte Industrial Estate situated in Kudumalakunte Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gowribidanur Tq, chikkaballapura Dist and Industrial Plot measuring EW:50 Mtrs NS:20 mtrs in all measuring 1000 Sqmtrs and bounded on : East By : KSSIDC Buffer Zone and Private Land, West By: Road, North by: Service Road, South By: Plot No –B-55.

Name of Title holder : M/s Ashoka Industries.

Date : 10.02.2025
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/-Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION (CHENNAI) LIMITED
PALLAVAN HOUSE, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 002.

TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of MTC, e-tenders are invited for the Procurement, Supply, Operation and Maintenance of 600 low floor Electric Buses and Development of Allied Electric and Civil Infrastructure on Gross Cost Contracting (GCC) in phase 2 for MTC (Chennai) Ltd.

TENDER SCHEDULE					
Tender document download date start from	Tender document submission start date & time	Tender document submission end date & time	Tender will be opened on (Date & Time)	EMD amount in Rs.	Pre-bid meeting date and time
11.02.2025	10.03.2025 12.00 Noon	03.04.2025 upto 16.00 Hrs	03.04.2025 at 16.30 Hrs	3,00,00,000/-	20.02.2025 at 15.00 Hrs

The tender documents are available in the tender websites **https://tntenders.gov.in, https://mtcbus.tn.gov.in, https://tnidb.tn.gov.in.** Bidders are requested to upload their tender documents through the Government e-procurement portal **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** only. Any modification (if any) in tender terms and tender invitation period will be uploaded in the websites and the tenderers are requested to go through the above website periodically.

MTC (Chennai) Ltd reserves the right to Accept / Reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/ 546 /TENDER/2025

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Aero India 2025 gets off to a spectacular start

Set to be the biggest-ever edition of the event till date, it is expected to see the participation of over 900 exhibitors, including 150 foreign companies

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The 15th edition of the biennial Aero India was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka on Monday.

The inaugural of the five-day event also saw a flypast comprising various aircraft.

The Air Display commenced with an AN 32 dropping the Akash Ganga skydiving team followed by the Dhwaj formation with three Mi 17 helicopters, Tejas formation with three LCA MK1, the Bhim formation with Light Utility Helicopters, Rakshak formation of Dornier aircraft, the Drona formation with one AN 32 and two Dornier, the Yodha formation of LCA MK1A, Varuna formation with one P8I two MiG-29's and two Hawk, Saathi formation with one C-130 and two C-29, Arjuna formation with five Jaguars, Netra formation with one Netra aircraft and two Su-30s, Shakti formation with Rafale one and one Su-30 and the Trishul with three Su-30.

The first three days of Aero India are dedicated to business visitors, while the last two days are open to the general public.

The five-day event comprises Defence Ministers' Conclave, CEOs' Round-Table, iDEX start-up event, aerial displays, a large exhibition area comprising India Pavilion and a trade fair of aerospace companies.

Aero India 2025 will be organised in a total area of over 42,000 sqm and with the confirmed participation of over 900 exhibitors, including 150 foreign companies. During the last edition of the airshow in 2023 there were 809 exhibitors, businesses, investors, start-ups, and MSMEs and more than seven lakh visitors attended the event.

Organisers said that the event is set to be the biggest-ever Aero India till date.

Among the aircraft which will be on display are the fifth generation fighter jets of Russia, the SU-57 and the F-35 from the U.S., the KC-135 Stratotanker, B-1B Lancer and the Multi-Mission Transport Aircraft KC-390 Millennium from Brazil.

The Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team also performed at the inauguration.

FIR against caterer after insect found in food

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Yelahanka police on Monday registered a First Information Report against a private caterer for supplying sub-standard food to the police personnel who were deployed for the aero show security.

Earlier, they had complained that a cockroach had been found in one of the food packets. Senior police officials visited the aero show and had breakfast with security personnel to check the quality.

Work order of the caterer has also been cancelled

However, later on Monday afternoon, the personnel complained that they found an insect in the food packets supplied to them.

Based on the complaint the police registered a case against the caterer charging them under BNS Section 275 (sale of noxious food or drink).

The work order of the caterer has been cancelled. The authorities are contemplating approaching ISKCON for food supply, a senior police officer added.

Surya Kiran can now paint the skies in the tricolour

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The dazzling manoeuvres in the air by the Bidar-based Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team (SKAT) during the Aero India had a new addition this time. Streaks of tricolour produced by the Hawk MK-132 aircraft lit up the Bengaluru sky, thanks to an indigenous innovation that has been featured in the aircraft since the September 2024 air show in Jodhpur.

For long, the team had the limitation of using only white smoke, which was released through a hose on the wing.

However, Indian Air Force personnel at the Nasik-based 11 Base Repair Depot took 13 months to perfect the system that now releases the three colours of the Indian flag.

The gun pod in the aircraft's belly now houses a pump to emit the coloured dyes. "The existing system was not capable of emitting coloured smoke since dyes could not be used. There was a demand from the IAF top brass and the public to add tricolour into the display since aerobatic teams of many countries are already using colours to add value to the air display," an IAF official, who worked on the project, told *The Hindu*.

The experiments on the dye and the system took 13 months. "The gun pod in the aircraft was already available. Instead of a gun, the pod now has a pump and a tank in which the dye is filled. In the full configuration, it would weigh 198 kg carrying 70 litres of dye," the official explained. "To bring changes to 12 other aircraft, it took us just three-and-a-half months."

The Gun Pod in the belly of Surya Kiran aircraft where the tank for dye and pump have been fitted. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The dye will last for a total duration of seven minutes as the overall rate of flow is about one litre a minute. "Of about 11 to 12 minutes of air display by the SKAT, the dyes will be available for about seven minutes. We are getting an amazing response to the new addition and the profile of the squadron has changed."

Since the addition, the SKAT has performed in over a dozen cities across India, evoking the spirit of patriotism, he added.

Feast for the eyes: All eyes turned to the skies as Aero India began on Monday. There were acrobatics, paragliding, and even a musical rehearsal on the day. The 15th edition of the event was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka. K. MURALI KUMAR, AFP, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, PTI

Some music too amid the roar of jets

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid the roar of fighter jets taking to the sky, the aero enthusiasts will be treated to music renditions by two popular Armed Forces bands at Aero India. Die hard fans of The Eagles could be regaled with their most popular number *Hotel California* - an additional takeaway from India's premier air show.

Bengaluru-based Air Warriors Symphony Orchestra of the Air Force Station, Jalahalli, and Japan -based the United States Air Force Band of the Pacific are likely to perform together, bringing harmony to the popular numbers that they play.

Sources said the U.S. band was particular about playing *Hotel California*, among their other favourites.

The members of the two bands would also jointly perform for which they started rehearsing on Monday evening. According to sources the Band of Pacific, based in Yokota Air Base in Japan, has 10 members, while the Air Warriors Symphony Orchestra has 12, all of whom will be synchronising their music.

According to the U.S. consulate, the band will perform on February 13 and 14 at 5 p.m. at Aero India. The U.S. Air Force band will also perform at the Christ (Deemed to be University) auditorium.

Kharge and Rahul Gandhi likely to skip 'Invest Karnataka' summit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi are likely to skip the business summit organised by the Karnataka government in Bengaluru between February 12 and 14. Both leaders have been invited as key guests to the 'Invest Karnataka 2025' summit that has the theme 'Reimagining Growth'. The State's new Industrial Policy 2025-30 will also be unveiled at the event.

Although there is no official communication in this regard, sources indicated that both the leaders will avoid attending the business summit.

There is resentment in the top party leadership for the prominence to given to several Union Ministers and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders at the event hosted by the Congress government in the State. The source said the top leadership of the party has conveyed its displeasure to the Karnataka government.

A file photo of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, MP, at a Congress meeting. ANI

While Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate the summit on February 12 in the presence of Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will preside over the inaugural session.

Several Union Ministers, including Pralhad Joshi, H.D. Kumaraswamy, Nirmala Sitharaman, Piyush Goyal, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Shobha Karandlaje, and V. Somanna have confirmed their participation in the event.

While Mr. Gandhi was slated to launch the revamped Single Window System, Mr. Kharge was to participate in the concluding ceremony.

"The Congress president usually does not attend such events in the middle of the Parliament session, and Mr. Gandhi also has some other engagement," a senior Congress functionary told *The Hindu*.

The event is being organised by the Karnataka government to attract global investment by highlighting the State's strategic advantages in fostering innovation, industrial development, and global partnerships. The event will see several top industrialists as well as some global investors attending it.

MUDA case: Activist not to move apex court

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Instead of filing an appeal before the Supreme Court questioning the High Court's decision to reject his petition to transfer the probe into the MUDA case to the CBI, activist Snehamayi Krishna has said that he will present the evidence in the matter before the court to expedite the legal process.

On his social media account, Mr. Krishna said he arrived at such a conclusion after going through the contents of the HC verdict on his petition seeking a CBI probe in the MUDA case, reviewing the available evidence, and analysing the matter for two days in consultation with his lawyers and well-wishers.

Instead of delaying the legal process by filing an appeal before the Supreme Court for a CBI probe, the activist said he was confident of ensuring punishment for the accused.

Serpentarium dedicated to snakebite research inaugurated

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A serpentarium dedicated to snakebite research was inaugurated at Rathnapuri near Hunsur in Mysuru district on Monday.

Set up by Liana Trust, under the auspices of the Forest Department of Karnataka, the Serpentarium - dedicated to snakebite research, management, and mitigation - is the first of its kind in the country.

It houses seven species, including the Common Krait, Russel's Viper, Saw Scaled Viper, Spectacled Cobra, King Cobra, and two species of Pit Viper - the Malabar Pit Viper and Nose Pit Viper.

The newly inaugurated serpentarium is set to become a pioneering centre for the development of these specialised anti-venoms, ensuring that treatments are tailored to the unique venom profiles of the Karnataka region.

"This initiative represents a significant step forward in the fight against snakebite and the conservation of snake species," noted a statement from the organisers. Gerard Martin, founder trustee of Liana Trust, told *The Hindu* that the serpentarium will provide venom samples free of charge for research institutions and companies producing life-saving anti-venom. "An effective anti-venom for a snakebite can be produced only by using the venom of the same species," he said.

A demonstration of the extraction of venom from a snake was also held during the inauguration. According to Lisa Gonzalves, the curator of the serpentarium, the facility comprises about 40 snakes belonging to the common krait variety which are kept in the indoor facility. The 22 Russel's vipers and 16 cobras are housed in other enclosures.

The serpentarium will not only facilitate a deeper understanding of the human-snake interactions and enable the development of more effective treatments for snakebite victims but will also serve as a centre for training in snake husbandry, research, and conservation, fostering a new generation of experts in these fields. Noted herpetologist Romulus Whitaker, who was also present on the occasion, pointed out that snakebites represented a huge health problem in India, and the collection of venom for the production of anti-venom played a crucial role in the implementation of the national action plan for snakebites.

The serpentarium in Rathnapuri will help in the regional production of venom for regional anti-venoms, he said before adding that the venture will help save "hundreds of thousands of lives" lost to snakebites.

Deputy Conservator of Forests, Hunsur, Fayazuddin, said the Forest Department was engaged in man-animal conflicts involving wild animals like leopards and elephants, but it did not have any data on snakebites.

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BJP issues show-cause notice to Yatnal yet again, gives him 72 hours to reply

It says despite assurances of good conduct in response to earlier notices, his tirade against State leadership hasn't stopped

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ongoing rebellion in the Opposition BJP has taken a new twist, with the party high command again issuing a show-cause notice to prominent rebel leader and MLA Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal on Monday for violating party discipline by continuing his tirade against State leadership.

The notice has been issued at a time when both the rebel leaders and party State president B.Y. Vijayendra are in Delhi to meet central leaders. Asking him to show cause as to why disciplinary action should not be initiated against him, the party has given Mr. Yatnal 72 hours to reply.

This is not the first time that Mr. Yatnal, who is the face of rebel leaders, has been served a show-cause notice by the party. While a few such notices had been issued to him earlier, this is the second such being issued to Mr. Yatnal in the last two months. The last notice was issued to him on December 2, 2024, for publicly attacking veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa and his son Mr. Vijayendra.

"The party has taken note of your continuing tirade and breach of party discipline in clear contravention of the discipline code as enshrined in the BJP constitution and the rules thereunder," said the notice issued by party central disciplinary committee member secretary Om Pathak.

BJP leaders Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, Kumar Bangarappa and others in New Delhi on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Despite your assurances of good behaviour and conduct in response to earlier show-cause notices, you continue to violate and flout your own assurances," the notice said, in a reference to the continuous tirade by the senior MLA from Vijayapura against the party State leadership.

"Please note that in the event of non-receipt of your explanation within the time stipulated, the committee may assume that you have nothing to say and it may proceed to take a final view in the matter," the notice further said.

Though internal tussle has gripped the party for over a year, trouble intensified in the last 15 to 20 days, ever since the process of election to the State president through the appointment of chiefs for the party district units commenced.

The rebels had visited Delhi last week to complain to the party central leaders that the process of appointment of district units lacked transparency and to allege that Mr. Vijayendra had managed to push his own candidates for the posts so that he can retain his post when elections are held for it.

Mr. Vijayendra had responded sharply to this by questioning the central leaders' silence when a veteran leader like Mr. Yediyurappa was being attacked by rebels.

Mr. Yatnal had remained adamant by declaring that he was an aspirant for not just the party State president's post, but also the Chief Ministerial position in future.

However, the scene again shifted to Delhi since Sunday as Mr. Vijayendra had been reportedly summoned by the party central leadership and the rebels too had visited Delhi to attend the house warming ceremony of the official residence of Union Minister V. Somanna.

Yatnal's claim

Hours before the show-cause notice was issued, Mr. Yatnal had told media persons that the central leadership had indicated to them through Mr. Somanna that it would take everyone into confidence before the appointment of the next State president. He had claimed that the central leadership was likely to hold a meeting in Delhi soon to elicit their views.

It remains to be seen now whether the notice would have any impact on the rebellion and other related developments in the party State unit.

Election of Chickballapur district chief put on hold

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP high command appears to have tried to address concerns of the camps of rebels and party State president B.Y. Vijayendra as it has put on hold the appointment of Chickballapur district unit president, along side issuing show-cause notice to Basanagouda Patil Yatnal.

In a letter to Mr. Vijayendra, BJP national general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Radha Mohan Das Agarwal has stated that party national president J.P. Nadda had put on hold the election of Chickballapur district unit president B. Sandeep till further instructions. He has also made it clear in the letter that Mr. Sandeep cannot function as district unit president and also cannot vote in the election to the post of party State president.

Mr. Sandeep's election had ruffled the feathers of party MP from Chickballapur K. Sudhakar, who had accused Mr. Vijayendra of hatching a conspiracy to elect his loyalist to the post. He had publicly raised a banner of revolt against Mr. Vijayendra demanding his replacement as State president.

Govt. resends MFI Ordinance to Governor with detailed explanation on his objections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has resent the Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Ordinance, 2025, to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot without any changes. However, it has offered a detailed explanation on the clarification sought by the Governor on various aspects.

An official communique from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office confirmed on Monday that the Ordinance had been resent to the Governor with a detailed explanation.

The government had taken the Ordinance route to enact the legislation to protect the interests of small borrowers in the wake of more than a dozen people committing suicide allegedly following harassment by microfinance institutions (MFIs). However, the Governor had returned the Ordinance last Friday suggesting that it would benefit only borrowers while no provision has been made to provide protection to lenders.

He had broadly sought six clarifications for which the government has provided its reply.

Clarifications offered

It is also necessary to protect the lawful and genuine rights of the persons who have lent to needy persons within the existing laws

However, the State government has not made any changes to the Ordinance

with proper checks and balance mechanism, the Governor had observed. In response to this, the government clarified that loan recovery of legally registered firms had not been stopped, but they had only been barred from recovering loans through illegal means.

To the suggestion that the legislation could have waited for sometime to get the views of the legislature, the government said the legislation would again be brought up before the State legislature for a debate and its views would be incorporated then. However, the government was well within its right to promulgate the Ordinance as an emergency measure, the government said.

The Governor had said: "If all the pending loans with interest as on date is discharged, the lawful and genuine lenders may face trouble." Referring to this, the government clarified that none of the unlicensed firms or persons had the right to lend or charge excessive interest and penal interest. Also, such loans were not eligible for recovery, the government made it clear in its response.

Referring to the Governor's objection that the proposed Ordinance goes against the spirit of natural justice by violating the rights of lending firms, the government said the Ordinance had never barred legally registered and licensed firms from recovering their loans.

To another objection that the provision of imposing penalty of ₹5 lakh against the maximum loan of ₹3 lakh and imprisonment of 10 years were disproportionate compared to the provisions available in other laws for similar offences, the government said the penalty and imprisonment clause were not based on the quantum of loans, but were intended to prevent harassment faced by defaulters.

Referring to the concern that asking MFIs return the security if obtained against loans would affect their business in the long run and affect small borrowers in remote areas, the government clarified that the microfinance firms were supposed to lend without any security as per the RBI norms.

On existing laws

The Governor had also observed that unlawful activities by the lending agencies could be controlled through the police by effective enforcement of existing laws. Referring to this, the government argued that the existing legislations did not provide any effective tool to strictly regulate these firms.

Proposed housing project threatens forest in Kodagu

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

A large swathe of pristine forest in a village in Kodagu is under threat as plans for a housing project for tribals is beginning to take shape. The land in question is on survey no.147/2 at Teralu village in Hudikeri hobli of Ponnampet taluk, and is spread over 43.35 acres.

It is home to a rich diversity of wildlife, including elephants, tigers, lion-tailed macaques, Nilgiri martens, and many other species, all of which are protected under various schedules of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The land was held by the Revenue Department, which recently transferred it to the Project Coordinator, Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP), for construction of houses for tribal communities. Though the land in Teralu belongs to the Revenue Department it is forested and hence, deemed to be one under the definition of "forest" as per the Supreme Court orders, ay conservationists.

While the need for housing facilities for the marginalised tribal population is undeniable, the proposed location raises serious concerns about the potential escalation of human-wildlife conflict, particularly with elephants, according to conservationists.

It was argued that Kodagu, which already grapples with intense human-elephant conflict, faces an even more challenging situation if this project proceeds in the proposed area. When contacted, the ITDP official in Kodagu admitted that the land is proposed for building houses for tribals but said that only about 20 acres had been transferred by the Revenue Department.

Rehabilitation project

He said that it was part of a larger project to build houses - across the district - for nearly 4,750 tribal families that lived outside the forests and had to be rehabilitated on government or revenue land. Against 220 acres of land that is required for building houses for tribals, the ITDP had about 40 acres so far and the acquisition or transfer would be a lengthy process, the official added.

Sanjay Gubbi, wildlife conservationist, said the proposal significantly impacts wildlife and poses an unfair challenge to tribal communities as the area is a hotspot for human-elephant conflict. The land is unsuitable for agriculture or housing and the government should consider identifying alternative land for tribals, he added.

While the project requires clearance under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, due to the presence of hundreds of mature trees, there are concerns that the Forest Department may come under pressure to clear it. This is because Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in a meeting with the tribals held at HD Kote sometime ago, promised to resolve their long-pending demands and issued specific directions to the Forest Department not to create "hurdles" in tribal welfare projects.

Objections raised

The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Virajpet division, had raised objections to the transfer of the land in 2017, stating that it was within 1-km radius of Brahmagiri eco-sensitive zone and the project could not be cleared without the permission of the monitoring committee of the ESZ.

Baldota Group to invest ₹54,000 cr. to establish steel plant in Koppal

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar inspecting the venue of the Global Investors' Meet at Palace Ground in Bengaluru on Monday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Baldota Group will invest ₹54,000 crore to establish an integrated steel plant in Koppal taluk. The project will operate under Baldota Steel and Power Ltd. (BSPL) and is expected to have an annual production capacity of 10.50 million tonne, according to a release.

As part of this initiative, the company will sign a Memorandum of Agreement at the Global Investors' Meet on Tuesday in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, said Rahul Kumar N. Baldota, Joint Managing Director of Baldota Group.

"The project will significantly boost steel production in Karnataka and generate large-scale employment opportunities to locals," said Mr. Baldota.

The government is set to host 'Invest Karnataka 2025', the State's flagship investors meet. The event to be inaugurated on February 11, the event will be from February 12-14 with the theme 'Reimagining Growth'.

According to the State government, the meet aims to highlight Karnataka's strategic advantages in fostering innovation, industrial growth, and global partnerships.

Industries Minister M.B. Patil stated that Karnataka expects investment proposals worth ₹10 lakh crore, with a target of realising at least 70% of these commitments.

Ashok tells Minister not to try to become an intellectual by debating on Lord Rama

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taunting Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa for his remarks that Valmiki's Rama was different from Ayodhya's Rama, the BJP asked if it would be better to discuss corruption in the Valmiki ST Development Corporation as it impacts people of the community rather than debate Valmiki's Rama.

In a social media post, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok on Monday asked Mr. Mahadevappa not to try to become an 'intellectual' by triggering such 'unwanted' debates. He said, "Kannadigas are tired of seeing the officiousness of intellectuals in a state of confusion who mushroom whenever the Congress comes to power." He said, "Instead of politicking in the name of Buddha, Basavanna, and B.R. Ambedkar to get power, it is better to tread the ideal path shown by these stalwarts while in power."

Mr. Ashok asked Mr. Mahadevappa to desist from trying to 'divide the Hindu community'

Mr. Ashok asked Mr. Mahadevappa to desist from trying to 'divide the Hindu community' through such talk. He alleged that Congress leaders are unable to digest the installation of Lord Rama's statue in Ayodhya though a year had passed since the consecration ceremony.

Tenure extended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Governor issued an order on Monday extending the tenure of M.K. Ramesh, V-C of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) by six months.

In his order, the Governor said that Dr. Ramesh assumed office on February 11, 2022. His tenure ended on February 10, 2025. However, the selection of a suitable candidate for this position has not been completed.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE,
(RAJENDRA GUNJ, RAICHUR.)
Office Ph.No-08532-235306 E-Maill.ld-apmcraichur@rediffmail.com
No.APMC/RcrRIDF-30/Tender/1052 /2024-25 Date: 06 -02-2025

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AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, RAICHUR hereby invites tenders for the work sanctioned under DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES FOR NEW CHILLY MARKET AT COTTON MARKET "A" WING OF APMC RAICHUR UNDER RIDF-30 SCHEME 2024-25 from eligible contractors registered in PWD Government of Karnataka for the Indent Number (APMC/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT429) The last date for submission of documents through e-procurement is 10-03-2025 for detailed information please visit the website WWW.KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL(KPPP).

Sd/- Secretary **Sd/- Chairman**
APMC Raichur DIP/RCR/726/KSMCA/727/2024-25 **APMC Raichur**

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लोकस् तद् अनुवर्तते Sloka 21. Chapter 3.The Gita

Whatever action is performed by a great man, common men follow in his footsteps.
And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues.

Fondly Remembered by
Vasumathi Sivaraman
Srikanth Sivaraman, Akila Srikanth, Sri Vidya Sivaraman
Aradhana Srikanth & Anirudh Srikanth

Why Bengaluru is the 'most pet-friendly' city

While many pet parents say that Bengaluru is overall a pet-friendly one, they are concerned about the escalating costs of current pet care services in Bengaluru

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

For people with relatively fewer commitments and plenty of spending power, pets become a way to experience parenthood before having their children. K. MURALI KUMAR

Krishnapriya Balakrishnan considers her two dogs, Bambi and Leo, her children. She ensures for them the best of veterinary care, customised meals, a 24/7 nanny, and premium grooming sessions, and even throws them birthday parties.

"People are like, oh god, you spend so much money on them. But my friends with kids are also paying insane school fees for them to learn ABCD," laughs Krishnapriya, Corporate Marketing Head, Maratt Hospitality. "I think it is each one to their own."

It helps that she is now in Bengaluru – she moved from Kolkata six years ago – a place she considers "way ahead of other cities" as far as pet care is concerned. Not only does the city offer better facilities to look after and enrich a pet's life, but there is also a large community of pet lovers in the city who support and help each other. There are also multiple city-wide pet parent communities. Her building has one, "and it is very active," says Krishnapriya. "It is beautiful, and I've seen that only in Bengaluru."

There are indeed many benefits to being a pet owner living in Bengaluru, agrees Anjali Pais, who shares her spacious Bengaluru home with four pets: a dog named Marshmallo and three cats, Sirius, Po and Fifi. "As a pet parent, I think veterinary services, for instance, are very crucial. We had a very bad experience in Chennai and struggled in Mumbai, but it has been different in Bengaluru," says Anjali, the founder and CEO of Aquilar Strategic Services, who believes that the city's strong pro-pet and rescue culture has helped grow its pet infrastructure and community. "For instance, if there are people in the apartment who are against pets, just having this strong pro-pet community helps us counter their objections in a united way."

Pet parenting

Bengaluru is the most pet-friendly city in India, with its closest competitor being Mumbai, according to a 2019 survey conducted by Lana Paws Survey. It also appears to be a city where people are willing to spend the most on their pets, as a more recent study by online pet marketplace Supertails, released in 2023, indicates. It found that 55% of Bangaloreans spent an average of ₹3,000 per month on pet care compared to 52% of Mumbaikars.

"Bengaluru is indeed the most pet-friendly city in the country," says Vineet Khanna, co-founder of Supertails, who estimates that the city houses around 50 lakh pets, anywhere between 13-15% of the overall pet population in the country. "A multitude of variables and factors come together to make it rightfully called a pet-friendly city," he believes.

For starters, Bengaluru has the third highest population in India and the highest in South India, with an estimated population of almost 14 crore. It is also a very young city with the highest share of the population in the age brackets of 19-30 years and 30-40 years, according to the Bengaluru Rising data report, which Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah released at the Bengaluru Tech Summit in November 2024. "Bengaluru is growing younger with time because of a large population inflow," believes Supertails' Vineet, pointing out that this influx of young talent from elsewhere to work in the city, away from their families, leads to a cultural shift

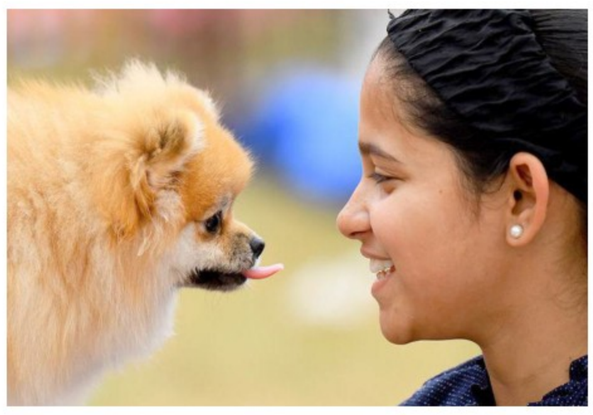
as they adapt to single life in a metropolis. "Declining fertility rates and delayed marriages are no exception to Bangalore," he adds.

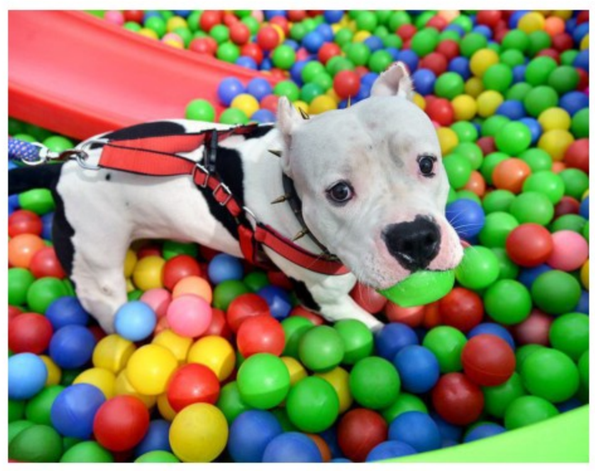
For these young people with relatively fewer commitments and plenty of spending power, pets become a way to experience parenthood before having their children. Pratap Gopalakrishnan, a Bengaluru-based leadership coach and start-up consultant who is working on building a global pet services platform, reiterates that from a sheer growth perspective, Bengaluru is the number one metro in India. "The double-income-no-kids community in Bangalore is very large in terms of that number," he says. "Also, Gen Z wants to become pet parents first and then decide whether they want to become parents or not," he says, while Vineet adds, "The population of pets is increasing, and the population of pet parents is becoming younger. That's interesting because it leads to further growth."

According to a January 2023 report published by Bengaluru-headquartered market research and data platform Tracxn, Bengaluru has 86 pet tech start-up. FILE PHOTO

Categories and growth

According to Vineet, food is the fastest-growing subcategory when it comes to the pet care industry, with younger parents willing to invest in the best possible food for their pets. "Home-cooked food is not the most natural option for pets; they're not cooking for themselves," he says, pointing out that the average Bengaluru pet parents are more digitally active, intuitive and discerning about pet nutrition. This, in turn, means that the market tends to become more premium, he says, especially since "they are not cooking for their pet, so there is a guilt factor. To overcome that guilt, you try to give your pet a bit more, which leads to premiumisation."





Some feel that significant gaps in pet tech still need to be addressed in the city and, indeed, in the rest of the country. FILE PHOTO

Bengaluru also has a higher growth rate for categories beyond food in India. "Bengaluru has a working population, so there is this typical feeling with the parent that when they are working, they have a higher obligation to pamper and spoil their little one," says Vineet, who believes that the other category, which is growing fast in Bengaluru is pet health care that is now becoming proactive rather than reactive.

Ankit Tandon, Senior Manager, Category & Operations at omnichannel pet care firm Zigly, agrees that the city is a thriving pet market with a strong focus on comprehensive pet care. "The city's pet-friendly infrastructure, including parks, cafes, and pet services, makes it an ideal hub for businesses offering a one-stop solution for pet wellness," says Ankit. In his opinion, Bengaluru's pet owners are increasingly willing to invest in premium products and services. "The most popular segments are premium pet food, grooming services, and healthcare. There's also a growing demand for toys, accessories, and fashionable items, as pet parents seek quality and comfort for their pets," he states.

According to a January 2023 report published by Bengaluru-headquartered market research and data platform Tracxn, Bengaluru has 86 pet tech start-ups, including Supertails, Wagr, Khanal Foods, Kuddle and PetCart. "Out of these, 12 start-ups are funded, with two having secured Series A+ funding," states the report, adding that over the past 10 years, an average of six new companies have been launched annually.

Digital-first

Bengaluru is the playground for most digital new-age start-ups "because it is so adaptive and so open to digitally first businesses," says Vineet. In his opinion, the pet-friendliness of the city and inhabitants' willingness to spend means that it becomes a "proof of concept city for anybody trying out new things," he says. "Pet care evolution and revolution are happening across the country. It is just that Bengaluru is a bit ahead of the curve."

On the other hand, Pratap feels that some significant gaps in pet tech still need to be addressed in the city and, indeed, in the rest of the country. "Start-ups typically try to take on the low-hanging fruit: pet foods and accessories. I'd say 60% of the market is pet foods, and maybe another 5% is accessories."

However, the pet service industry, which includes pet boarding, housesitting, pet insurance, pet grooming, dog walking, puppy and dog training, pet taxis and telemedicine, still has some way to go, in his opinion. "I think there is a huge possibility of solving issues related to the services space," says Pratap, who believes that AI technology could significantly help key innovations in pet healthcare. "It would see the telemedicine space transform in a big way, with early detection of diseases and treatments that will give a few years more to our furry friends."

Escalating costs

While Anjali concedes that the city is overall a pet-friendly one, she remains concerned about it the escalating costs of current pet care services in Bengaluru. "I've always been a very committed and passionate pet owner, but I think that is being exploited left, right and centre by the industry," she says, pointing out that these grooming services, for instance, are markedly more expensive in Bengaluru than in a city like Chennai, also a metro city.

"I do not understand how things get so much more expensive when they cross borders," she says. In her opinion, it is because people in Bengaluru dote on their pets so much and exhibit a willingness to spend that pet ownership is becoming more and more expensive. "We have fantastic facilities, but I also believe that people are taking advantage of the situation, which is also causing an overall escalation in prices in Bangalore," she says.

She also believes that the city's basic infrastructure leaves much to be desired for both pet and pet owners. "The government needs first to stop digging roads and dislodging everything. We can't even move out and take our dog for a walk," she says. "What is the question of being pet-friendly if basic mobility is problematic?"

Atrial Fibrillation: Early restoration of normal rhythm is crucial, say doctors

Some doctors said this condition is widely recognised now largely due to the increasing availability and use of wearable devices

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

AFib is an abnormal rhythm in the heart caused by irregular electrical impulses in the upper chambers of the heart. GETTY IMAGES

Doctors in the State-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research are seeing a rise in the number of patients being treated for Atrial Fibrillation (AFib), an abnormal rhythm in the heart.

While some doctors said this condition is becoming more widely recognised now largely due to the increasing availability and use of wearable devices such as smartwatches that can monitor heart rhythm and detect potential AFib episodes, others differed.

Although alerts through wearable devices allow for earlier diagnosis and management of the condition, such devices are largely worn by the younger generation while AFib is high among the elderly, a few doctors said.

What is AFib?

AFib is an abnormal rhythm in the heart caused by irregular electrical impulses in the upper chambers of the heart. "It can be silent, and the patient may not know about it. It could also present with a stroke or with heart failure. It is usually progressive, and if left undiagnosed and untreated can cause heart disease by itself, worsen pre-existing heart condition conditions, and also damage other organs in the body. In patients who are elderly, the prevalence of atrial fibrillation is about 20%. Even when diagnosed, the common misconception is that it does not cause any problems," said Rakesh Naik, Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Jayadeva.

"The only way to detect atrial fibrillation is to keep screening for it. Screening is simple and consists of just recording an ECG. Since the episodes can be short-lived, screening usually involves continuous monitoring in patients who are at risk for heart disease or have pre-existing heart disease. Screening has significant value in being able to detect it in this population," the doctor said.

Deepak Padmanabhan, Consultant Cardiac Electrophysiologist at Jayadeva, said the condition is being diagnosed but is not being treated properly. "There is enough evidence to show that AFib increases the risk of heart failure and stroke in the long term. "That risk is only modifiable only when you get back to normal rhythm. Early restoration of normal rhythm is crucial either by medication or procedure," he said.

Darshan Krishnappa, Consultant Cardiac Electrophysiologist at the same institute, said symptoms of AFib include irregular heartbeat, where your pulse is not steady. "Heart palpitations, fatigue, breathing difficulty, dizziness and loss of consciousness are the main symptoms. If a person develops these symptoms, he/she needs to see an electrophysiologist," Dr. Krishnappa said.

Conference

The management of AFib is a multidisciplinary process. The Indian Institute of Atrial Arrhythmias conducted the first ever multidisciplinary conference in Bengaluru in the third week of January.

Aimed at increasing awareness for the management of this disease, the conference was inaugurated by Vishal Ravi, Secretary (Fiscal Reforms) and K.S. Ravindranath, in-charge director of Jayadeva. Experts, who participated in the conference, asserted the need to diagnose the disease and restore the rhythm.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 11, 1975

Noisy Scenes Stall Governor's Address in Karnataka

Bangalore, Feb. 10: The joint sitting of the Karnataka Legislature marking the beginning of the budget session, ended abruptly here today following a nonstop chorus of anti-Government slogans by the combined Opposition which prevented the Governor, Mr. Mohanlal Sukhadia from proceeding with the reading of his customary address. Obviously unable to make himself heard in the din of slogans, which included "Jaya Prakash Narayan ki Jai" the Governor tried in vain to call the House to order. He walked from the rostrum and left amidst renewed Opposition cries of "Jaya Prakash Narayan zinadabad."

Partial Bandh in Bangalore

Bangalore, Feb. 10: Except for the boycott of courts including the High Court by a majority of the advocates, the Bangalore bandh called by the Mahila Bhoorakshana Kriya Samithi was partial here today. The Samithi had organised the bandh to protest against the Injustice done to widows, unmarried daughters, minor sons and physically handicapped under the Karnataka Land Reforms Amendment Act.

CITYBEATS

A vocal tour

FEBRUARY 14, 15
Catch Soundarya's It Is What It Is Tour live this weekend. Soundarya is also known as the youngest AUDI Q3 Youth Ambassador and VH1 runner-up. Soundarya will be accompanied by Josh on the keyboard, lead guitarist Eric, bass guitarist Aditya and Dinu/ Melvin on the drums. *At 9.30pm at Windmills. Tickets on windmills-india-com*

Handicrafts utsav

ONGOING
A handicrafts exhibition and sale is currently underway on the occasion of Mahashivaratri. Titled Bengaluru Utsava, this grand flea market is offering a huge range of handicrafts, handloom and home decor items. There are crafts and fabrics created by artisans from across India. *At Chitrakala Parishat, Kumara Krupa Road till February 23.*

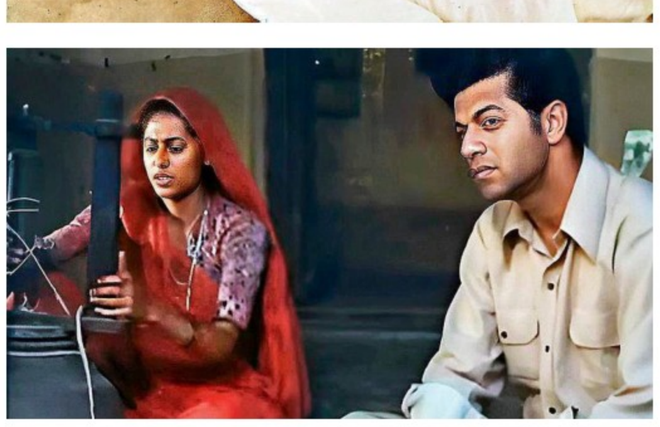
Beach bites

ONGOING
Olive Beach has a special Valentine's Day menu which will be available till February 14. Besides an eclectic and lavish menu with curated dishes and drinks, there will also be a resident DJ who will spin popular music to set the mood. On February 14, artist Rosemary Joshi will present an acoustic set.
At Olive Beach, Wood Street. Call 9945565483.

Mark of a mastermind

Padma Bhushan winner Anant Nag, Suchitra Film Society founder Narahari Rao and Shridhar Iyengar remember visionary filmmaker Shyam Benegal and his legacy

Shilpa Anandraj



Maestro of Indian parallel cinema Shyam Benegal and (left) stills from his films *Ankur* and *Manthan* (below). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

For Gen-Xers, the name Shyam Benegal evokes memories of cinematic brilliance. The master narrator has left an indelible mark with iconic films such as *Ankur, Bhumika* and *Kalyug*. His passing on December 23, 2024, at the age of 90, marked the end of an era.

Benegal, though born in Hyderabad, had his roots in Karnataka. His father Sridhar B Benegal was a photographer from Udupi. His passion for film was such that he was involved in the medium till 2023, which saw the release of the Indo-Bangladesh collaboration, *Mujib: The Making of a Nation*, based on the life and work of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father and first President of Bangladesh.

Veteran actor Anant Nag, who has worked with Benegal in six films including *Ankur, Bhumika, Manthan, Nishant, Kalyug* and *Kondura*, says: "Shyam was an enigma, a force that would cast his spell and leave you mesmerised. I worked with this power called Shyam Benegal from 1973 to 1980."

Anant made his debut with the Kannada film *Sankalpa* (Determination) in 1973, directed by Nanjaraja Urs. Anant moved to Mumbai and met Amol Palekar. "Amol introduced me to Satyadev Dubey, who said a friend was making a film and introduced me to Shyam Benegal."

Those were the days of experimental theatre and cinema, Anant says. "Plays and films leaned towards the intellectual and not commercial." Anant played Surya in Benegal's *Ankur*. "It was a negative character, but that did not matter to me."

Though he learnt under Dubey, Anant says his skills were further polished while working with Benegal. "*Ankur* was shot in 40 days and I discovered Shyam was a profound person, so was his knowledge of English and his command over the medium of cinema. He came from a theatre background, had made advertisements and worked with Alyque Padamsee."

His role in *Kondura*, based on a novel by Chintamani T Khanolkar, was his most challenging, says Anant.

"*Kondura* had a spiritual, sexual and a simple rural story track, running concurrently. Shyam was adept at not just presenting the stark realities of life but also social issues in his films. No one has been able to do what Shyam has done. And anyone who has worked with him cannot but come under his spell."

Benegal, Anant said, had such a powerful personality that after a point it could become oppressive creatively. "That is when I decided I had to distance myself. That was the kind of power he had on those around him."

When Anant moved to Bengaluru, he started working with MS Satyu and his wife, Shama Zaidi, who wrote scripts for Benegal. "She is a brilliant writer and Shyam found a permanent script writer in Shama. Shyam continued to make different films and stuck to the path he believed in."

Benegal, Anant says, had an intelligent sense of humour. "He would post brief shots for laughs and then rally us saying, 'Let us focus, we have a task on hand'. He always looked for fresh subjects that would work on multiple layers, and stories with strong undercurrents, with a possibility of varied interpretations."

Anant says he kept in touch with Benegal even after he moved. "I discovered he had met the legendary director, Guru Dutt, who is Shyam's second cousin. Deepika Padukone is also related to the family. Shyam even bought a house in Bengaluru and wanted to live here, but did not move because he felt in Mumbai, he could at least make ad films if nothing else worked, as all his contacts were there."

True to the narrative

KS Shridhar, Director of Films Division, which has now merged with NFDC talks about his association with Benegal.

"We worked together for the Films Division and later the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF), right from its inception," says Shridhar over a call from Mumbai.

"Shyam made many films for the Films Division and kept in touch with us. He gave a lot of importance to documentaries." Shridhar met Benegal in 2014. "He considered MIFF a great platform for documentaries, short films and animation. He was a soft-spoken person, one who would not get excited or angry. He was always composed. Each time I spoke to him, I would learn something – that is the kind of knowledge he had."

Nothing deterred Benegal from making films, Shridhar says. Also a documentary filmmaker, Shridhar says, "Shyam has seen a few of my films and would always say, 'When you work for a government organisation, you need to stick to certain rules'. That is what he also followed."

Shridhar remembers Benegal advice, "Keep in mind that irrespective of what film you make, do not make it in a manner that creates bureaucratic issues. You cannot take money from the government and criticise it."

Hidden dynamics

HN Narahari Rao, Vice President of Federation of Film Societies of India (FFSI) and founder of Suchitra Film Society, also had a very close bond with Benegal.

His book, *Most Memorable Films of the World: From the Diaries of Film Societies*, was launched by Benegal, who also wrote the preface for the book.

"I worked with the FFSI as the vice president while Shyam was the President and when he retired in 2012, I took over as President. For six years we worked together and Shyam inaugurated the very first BIFFes (Bangalore International Film Festival) in Suchitra, while I worked as the artistic director for the festival. A few films were also screened at the Tribhuvan theatre then," says 84-year-old Narahari.

When he wrote the book, *The Film Society Movement in India*, published by the Asian Film Foundation in 2009, Benegal gave interviews for the book. "Every time he was in Bengaluru, he would always make it a point to meet me. We had a close bond."

As a director, Narahari says: "Shyam was keen on the history of India and this can be seen in his films on Netaji or *Bharat Ek Khoj*. His death has hit us hard. I will not, however, call it a loss, as life and death are part of our existence. What stands out are his films, that speak volumes about oppression at various levels."

The inner feminine

Deep dive Rehearsals and scenes from EF_Femininity. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Priyamedha Dutta

For centuries, the social and political concept of gender has been a subject of intense debate, shaping movements and rights across the globe. Based on this pertinent issue, choreographers Chris Leuenberger and Marcel Schwald from Switzerland have embarked on an artistic journey that delves into the concepts of femininity, hyper-femininity and effeminacy through their documentary dance performances.

Their latest piece, *EF_FEMININITY - Trio Version*, supported by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, will be showcased across India in Bengaluru, New Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata. In India, where gender identities beyond the binary have a far-reaching history, they got in touch with Shilok Mukkati, Living Smile Vidya and Diya Naidu, – all activists fighting for recognition of their own femininities.

However, what was supposed to be a piece with four performers, will now have appearances of Living Smile Vidya (also known as Smiley) on video projections for the Trio Version's performance in India.

Ahead of their first show in Bengaluru, we spoke to the team on the idea behind the piece.

Marchel Schwald spoke on how he and Chris were always fascinated by the ways and gestures attributed to the female gender, "We were inspired by the female figures in our family who we looked up to. Growing up we enjoyed playing with dolls and dressing up as girls. We were eager to make a piece on femininity because it influenced us greatly."

"Since we teamed up with artistes from Bengaluru, coming to this city which has a vibrant queer feminist culture, was a natural step for us," he added.

Artist Shilok Mukkati shared her experience working on this piece and the ways they liked to convey it to the audience. "We have all faced some levels of gender policing no matter which part of the world you are in. With this piece, we are providing a platform to unlearn and relearn these traditional notions on gender.

"As artistes, its not about entertainment alone; it is our responsibility to advocate on social and political issues that we go through, and how we can work on it," she said.

Since the piece originated in Switzerland, artiste Diya Naidu spoke about adapting the play for a larger Indian audience, taking into consideration its diverse socio-cultural context. "We had to change the original piece that we had performed many times before the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure Smiley could join us from Switzerland. Since we are performing in this part of the world, the audience' experience is important to us. Both Chris and Marcel would route a lot of questions through us, because they did not have the local lens that we posses."

EF_FEMININITY- Trio Version will be performed in Bengaluru on February 11 and 12, 7 p.m. at Shoonya, Sudhama Nagar, Bengaluru. Entry free.

Souvenirs and sonnets

Long shadows Mica paintings are a throwback to India of yore. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) is set to host two events on February 11, wherein art enthusiasts and literature lovers can delve into the intersections of history, art, and poetry.

The first event, 'The Forgotten Souvenir: A Guided Walk,' will take place from 3.30pm to 4.30pm in the Infosys Foundation Gallery on the ground floor.

Led by Rajesh K from the MAP Team, this Kannada-language walk will explore the exhibition 'The Forgotten Souvenir,' which showcases mica paintings from the East India Company era.

These delicate artworks, created on thin sheets of muscovite mica, served as portable souvenirs for British travellers and provide a fascinating glimpse into colonial India's professions, societal roles, and rigid caste and class systems. The walk will also feature Amit Dutta's short film *Moments before Mutiny* and an interactive game, offering a deeper understanding of this nearly forgotten chapter of Indian art.

Works on mica are usually found with Company School art and are rarely seen on their own

The second event, 'Evoking the Unsayable - Jayant Kaikini's Take on Art,' will be held from 6.30pm to 7.30pm at the Mazumdar-Shaw Auditorium on the first floor. Organised in collaboration with Ananya Dhrishya, this session will feature renowned Kannada poet, writer, and lyricist Jayant Kaikini in conversation with Pratibha Nandakumar, a Kannada poet and journalist.

Jayant, known for his subtle imagery and focus on fleeting moments of urban life, will discuss his unique perspective on art and poetry. His works, including *No Presents Please* and his latest books *Mithun Number Two* and *Anarkaliya Safetypin*, have earned him numerous accolades, including the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature. Pratibha, a prolific writer and translator, will bring her own literary expertise to the conversation.

Both events are free to attend, though registration is required. For more information and registration, visit map-india.org

Centre meting out unfair treatment to south, says Maran

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

DMK MP Dayanidhi Maran on Monday accused the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre of meting out "unfair" treatment towards southern States even as "Tamil Nadu was the most successful State of the country".

"There is unfair treatment towards southern States. With an eye on the Bihar election, there were schemes like the expansion of Patna Airport and the Kosi river project [announced in the Union Budget]. What about Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala," he questioned, while participating in a debate on the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha.

Maybe next year, a lot of schemes would be announced for Tamil Nadu and Kerala in view of the Assembly elections "but they would be mere announcements and nothing would come to Tamil Nadu", he said.

The Kanniyakumari-Thiruvananthapuram economic corridor has been ignored again in the Union Budget, he said. Despite their contribution to the economy, there was no incentives for IT hubs in Bengaluru and Chennai, he pointed out, adding that the Chennai Metro project has also not received funds.

Preference has been given to corporates and not the common man, he said. He also claimed that prices of essential commodities were going up, hurting interests of the poor.

CBI arrests 4 in Tirumala ghee adulteration case

The SIT, formed by the SC, produced the accused before a Tirupati court on Sunday; Vaishnavi Dairy secured tenders in AR Dairy's name by submitting forged documents, show investigations

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested four suppliers implicated in the alleged Tirumala temple ghee adulteration case in Andhra Pradesh.

The accused include managing director of AR Dairy Rajasekharan, directors of Bhole Baba Organic Dairy Vipin Jain and Pinole Jain, and CEO of Sri Vaishnavi Dairy Private Limited Apoorva Chawda.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by CBI Joint Director Viresh Prabhu took the accused into custody on Sunday. They were presented before the II Additional Munsiff Court judge in Tirupati on Sunday night, who remanded them to judicial custody until February 20.

Adulterated ghee was used for preparing laddus, according to a complaint. G. N. RAO

Investigations revealed that representatives of Vaishnavi Dairy had fraudulently secured tenders in the name of AR Dairy by submitting forged documents. Discrepancies in pricing and supply chain processes also raised suspicions, with Vaishnavi Dairy purchasing ghee at ₹355 per kilogram but selling it to AR Dairy at ₹319.80 per kg.

The team also collected the information regarding the production capacity of the AR Dairy, the quantum of milk produced and as to why did the Vaishnavi Dairy supply the ghee when the AR Dairy had entered into an agreement with the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD).

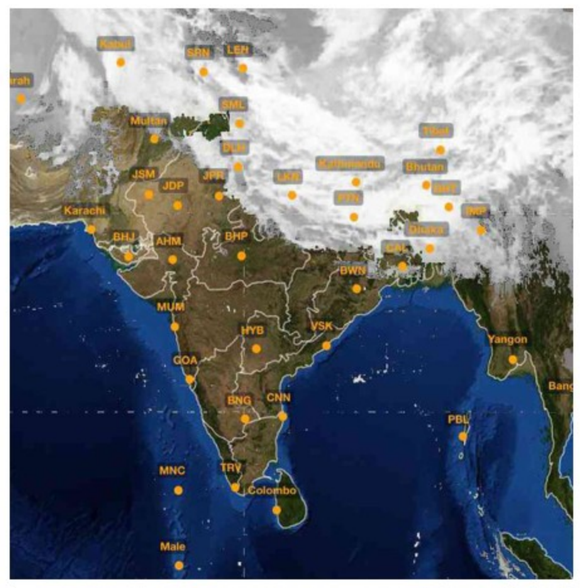
The controversy dates back to September 25 last year, when a complaint was filed alleging adulterated ghee was used in the preparation of laddus. The Supreme Court intervened in October, forming the five-member SIT to investigate the case under the supervision of CBI Director.

AR Dairy had secured the contract for the supply of 10 lakh kilograms of ghee to TTD during the previous YSRCP regime in the State. The first two consignments of ghee was delivered to TTD on July 6 and 17 but was rejected by TTD after quality checks revealed it was substandard.

Suspecting a foul play, the TTD sent the samples to the National Dairy Development Board in Gujarat which confirmed the presence of animal fat in the ghee that was supplied.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Gangetic West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.2	12.1	Kozhikode	—	34.2	24.8
Ahmedabad	—	33.4	13.8	Kurnool	—	35.7	22.2
Aizawl	—	27.8	8.6	Lucknow	—	28.6	9.5
Allahabad	—	31.1	10.0	Madurai	—	34.0	21.6
Bengaluru	—	29.5	18.1	Mangaluru	—	34.6	22.4
Bhopal	—	31.4	14.2	Mumbai	—	34.9	20.1
Bhubaneswar	—	33.5	17.9	Mysuru	—	32.0	15.2
Chandigarh	—	26.5	10.6	New Delhi	—	28.0	9.7
Chennai	—	31.1	23.8	Patna	—	27.7	14.2
Coimbatore	—	31.8	20.7	Port Blair	—	31.0	25.8
Dehradun	—	27.4	9.8	Puducherry	—	31.6	22.4
Gangtok	—	12.0	7.5	Pune	—	35.9	21.9
Goa	—	36.0	23.0	Raipur	—	34.6	16.3
Guwahati	—	27.5	13.6	Ranchi	—	29.8	10.6
Hubballi	—	34.0	19.0	Shillong	—	17.5	5.5
Hyderabad	—	33.1	20.2	Shimla	—	20.2	7.2
Imphal	—	24.7	12.5	Srinagar	—	14.6	4.0
Jaipur	—	28.7	13.1	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.8	22.4
Kochi	—	32.0	24.2	Tiruchi	—	32.5	22.0
Kohima	—	19.0	9.1	Vijayawada	—	32.7	22.6
Kolkata	—	31.2	15.2	Visakhapatnam	—	32.0	23.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.58	..60	.58	...204	...151	
Bengaluru	.12	..66	.24	...163	...125	
Chennai	.14	..11	100	46	...152	
Delhi	.21	178	.40	...312	...321	
Hyderabad	.11	..48	150	...130	...123	
Kolkata	.20	107	.24	...174	...150	
Lucknow	.13	..99	.66	...273	...217	
Mumbai	...8	..—	.28	...179	...178	
Pune	.17	115	.43	...192	...148	
Visakhapatnam	.10	..64	.27	...206	...154	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 351 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

More visually challenged persons can get rail concession

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Indian Railways have widened the scope of concession for passengers with visual disabilities. The rules have been amended in line with WHO standards.

Rail travel concession is admissible to four categories of 'persons with disabilities', including persons with visual impairment with a total absence of sight, official sources said.

The Railway Board has now decided to replace the words "persons with visual impairment with total absence of sight" with total absence of sight or visual acuity less than 3/60 or less than 10/200 by Snellen's Chart in better eye with best possible corrections or limitation of field of vision subtending an angle of less than 10 degree in better eye.

Validity of certificates

Persons with any one of the three disabilities would be eligible for the concession. Issuance/renewal of divyangjan identification cards would be done based on the revised definition of blindness.

The Blindness Railway Proforma Certificate would be valid for 5 years in case of persons up to the age of 25 years; 10 years for those in the age group of 26 and 35 years; and for lifetime for those aged above 35 years, the sources added.

Though the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare modified the definition of blindness under the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment in tune with the WHO standards in 2017, the railways offered concession only to persons with visual impairment with total absence of sight.

Last year, the Central Information Commission (CIC) had directed the Ministry of Railways to explain why only persons with 100% visual impairment were entitled to rail travel concession and not others with less but progressive and irreversible visual disability.

RTI Act query

The CIC, while disposing of a petition under the Right to Information Act, 2005, had asked the railway authorities to explain why travel concession was being granted only to persons with 100% blindness.

The CIC directed the Chief Public Information Officer (CPIO) to furnish a correct, detailed and point-wise reply to the matter as it related to public interest.

For persons with visual impairment travelling alone or with an escort for any purpose, the railways provides 75% concession in Second Class, Sleeper Class, First Class, 3-tier AC, and AC Chair Car, 50% in First AC and Second AC, 25% in Third AC & AC Chair Car of Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains and 50% in Monthly Season Ticket and Quarterly Season Ticket.

One escort is also eligible for the same element of concession.

Government of Karnataka
Department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysore.
TenderNotification Number: DAMH/CW/T-14/2024-25
Date: 30.01.2025

On behalf of the Governor, Government of Karnataka, the department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysuru has invited the itemwise tender for the 02 works (DAMH/2024-25:OW/WORK_INDENT-INDENT-121-122 under the standard tender documents KW-4. The minimum amount Rs.466.83 lakhs and Maximum amount Rs.576.29 lakhs kept for these tenders as per Standard Tender bid Document. Tender documents can be obtained through e-portal from date 03.02.2025 onwards. Last date and time of any Queries for tender.: 20.02.2025, 17.00 hrs. Last date and time of tender submission: 03.03.2025, 16.00 hrs
Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid: 05.03.2025, 16.30 hrs. Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid: 07.03.2025, 11.00 hrs

Sd/- Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore.
DIPR/DDMYS/1261/KSMCA/886/2024-25

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of Executive Engineer-3, Health & Sanitation, Dasappa Hospital Premises, N.R Road, Bengaluru 560 002.
No: EE-3/H&S/TEND/07/2024-25/CALL-2 **Date: 10.02.2025**

2nd CALL SHORT TERM

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Two Cover System)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer-3, Health and Sanitation on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for appointing Contractor for **Improvement Works to BBMP Dialysis Center in Azadnagar Ward, Chamarajapete Constituency** as detailed in the table below.

S.N.	Name of Assignment
1	Improvement Works to BBMP Dialysis Center in Azadnagar Ward, Chamarajapete Constituency **Amount put to tender :** Rs 51.26 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 1,02,600/-

Calendar of events: 1) Availability of RFP Document from 11.02.2025 at 16.00 Hrs onwards. 2) Last Date for Receipt of Queries 14.02.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs. 3) Date of Pre bid meeting at the office of Special Commissioner (H&S) on 15.02.2025 at 15.00 Hrs. 4) Last Date for receipt of Tenders is 21.02.2025 at 16.00 Hrs. 5) Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is 24.02.2025 at 16.30 Hrs. 6) Opening of financial bids will be intimated to technically qualified bidders.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-3, Health & Sanitation

Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Madikeri
(Government of Karnataka - Reg. Autonous Institute)
Phone : 08272-298220 Website : www.kimskodagu.kar.nic.in
Ref: No. ME/2024-25/IND : 1170 **Date: 06-02-2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Under signed invites e-tender notification in two Bid system from eligible Manufactures / Suppliers / Authorized Dealers through e-procurement portal GOK, **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** with EMD for the supply of Consumbles to Teaching Hospital, KOIMS, Madikeri, for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.

e-mail: directormckodagu@gmail.com **Sd/- Dean & Director, KOIMS, Madikeri**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of Chief Health Officer (Public Health), Ground Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru- 560 002.
No.:BBMP/2024-25/SE1300 **Date:10.02.2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BBMP invites tenders from eligible tenderers for
1) Tender for the Provision of Yoga Services.
2) Tender for the Provision of Internet Services.

Tender Reference No.	**1) BBMP/2024-25/SE1300(Call-2)** **2) BBMP/2024-25/SE1301(Call-2)**
Date of Commencement of downloading RFP documents from KPP portal	**On 10.02.2025, 5.00 p.m.onwards**
Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid Meeting:	**12.02.2025 at 11.00 a.m.** at Office of the CHO, Ground Floor, Annex-3 Building, N.R. Square, Bangalore - 560 002.
Last date and time for uploading the tenders in KPP Portal.	**18.02.2025 upto 5.00 p.m.**
Date of Opening of technical bids in KPP Portal.	**19.02.2025 at 5.10 p.m.**

Further details can be obtained from the KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Health Officer (Public Health).

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagar Division, Opp. Sagar Hospitals, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru - 560 078.
No. EE(PN)/TEND/08/2024-25 **Date:10.02.2025**

CORRIGENDUM

Ref.: Tender Notification No.: **EE(PN)/TEND/08/2024-25 Dtd:27.01.2025** with reference to the above tender notification, the calendar of events for the Sl. No. 31 & 32 have been modified as follows due to technical reasons.

Particulars	Scheduled Date	Modified Date
Last date & time for Submission of tenders	17.02.2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	**04.03.2025 upto 4.00 p.m.**
Opening of Technical bid	19.02.2025 at 4.05 p.m.	**05.03.2025 at 4.05 p.m.**

All Other terms and conditions remains the same.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagar Division

(Public Works Department)
Chikkaballapur Division, Chikkaballapur

Invitation for Tender (I.F.T) No.18/2024-25 Date:05.02.2025

(For Road Works -As per standard Bid Document KW 1,4 in two cover system).

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the undersigned invite tenders for works in two cover system through KPP Portal from eligible contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders **For sl.no 1 to 11 till Date: 13.02.2025 and sl.no 12 to 17 till Date: 21.02.2025 upto 04:00 pm.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during hours on works days or from websites **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Chikkaballapur
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/R.O.NO:367/KSMCA/2024-25

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 023. Tel: 080-2955 7021
E-mail: pdksaps@gmail.com
No: KSAPS/PRC/22/2024-25 **Date: 10.02.2025**

Invitation for Short Term Tenders
(Two Cover) Through e-Procurement

Short term tenders (Two cover) are invited for **Supply of ICTC Equipment's (Micro Pipette, Digital Thermo Meter, Centrifuge Machine and VDRL/RPR Rotator)** under e-Procurement System. More Details are available at website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for submission of tender on **25/02/2025 at 5:30 p.m.**

DIPR/CP/4933/MAA/2024-25
Sd/- Project Director KSAPS, Bengaluru.

An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU
Telephone: +91-8431186388, E-mail: sabvmcri@gmail.com
No: SABVMCRI/E-TENDER/ETP&STP/GG/29/2024-25 Dated: 10-02-2025
TENDER No: DME/2024-25/SE0402

TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tenders is invited for interested eligible firms in accordance with KTPP Act for **Annual Maintenance of ETP & STP for Government HSIS Gosha Hospital and Girls Hostel under to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru.**
1) Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document is **from 07-02-2025. 2)** Last Date for Tender Queries: **12-02-2025 upto 5.30 PM. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of e-Tender in e-Procurement Portal: **17-02-2025 upto 5.30 PM. 4)** Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids: **19-02-2025 at 10.30 AM.**
For further details search in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and if any further details are required in this regard. Please contact the Director Cum Dean / Assistant Administrator of this institute during working days.

DIPR/CP/4942/Adverto/2024-25
Sd/- Director Cum Dean SABVMCRI, Bengaluru.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
DIVISION KOPPAL. Phone No:08539-222318.email:eepwdkpl2@gmail.com
IFT No. PWD:DK:DB:KW-3&4:2024-25/3890 **Date: 10-02-2025.**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents KW-4 on **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal. **Head of Account : 5054-SH Improvement, 5054-MDR Improvement, 5054-MDR Renewal, 5054-MDR Bridge Improvement, 8443-Deposit Contribution/2024-25, KKRDB Macro Social-General/2022-23 & KKRDB Macro Institutional-General/2024-25.** Two cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. 08539 – 222318 and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** 26 Works (Work Indent No: 19082, 19072, 18655, 18867, 18765, 18751, 18859, 18863, 18686, 18858, 19077, 19084, 18724, 18731, 18171, 18964, 18853, 19270, 18855, 19220, 18965, 18316, 16741/Call-2, 17597, 17324 & 18722). Sl.No. (3 to 6, 9, 13, 14 & 22 to 26) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders 24-02-2025 Time 16.00, Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid 25-02-2025 Time 16.30. Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid **28-02-2025 Time 16.00.** Sl.No. (1, 2, 7, 8, 10 to 12 & 15 to 21) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders **01-03-2025 Time 16.00,** Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid **03-03-2025 Time 16.30.** Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid **06-03-2025 Time 16.00.** Minimum & Estimate Maximum Amount Rs. 100.00 Lakhs & Rs. 800.00 Lakhs respectively. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Date & Time for Pre-bid meeting, Tender Queries/Clarification, for reservation of category & Other information as mentioned in KPPP Portal. Any changes either in tender date or any other condition tenderers can view in KPPP portal.

DIPR/Koppal/747/KSMCA/2024-25 **Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Koppal**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following Works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Sl. No.	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	(South-West-2)	BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/4025/2024-25 Dated: 10-02-2025 (Reserved for ST Category)	1	Rs. 46,76,588/- Rs. 46,800/-	25-02-2025 Upto 5.00 PM	27-02-2025 After 10.30 AM
		BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/4025/2024-25 Dated: 10-02-2025	2	Rs. 41,87,808/- Rs. 83,800/-		
		BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/4025/2024-25 Dated: 10-02-2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	3	Rs. 45,67,377/- Rs. 45,700/-		
		BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/4025/2024-25 Dated: 10-02-2025 (Reserved for CAT-1 Category)	4	Rs. 50,70,705/- Rs. 1,01,500/-		
		BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/4025/2024-25 Dated: 10-02-2025	5	Rs. 91,51,911/- Rs. 1,83,100/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-West-2)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/Adverto/4941/2024-25

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU | the hindu businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

Emergency exit

N. Biren Singh is finally shown the door, but peace in Manipur is elusive

In a long overdue decision, N. Biren Singh resigned as Chief Minister of Manipur on Sunday. It was reportedly under duress due to growing dissidence within the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance government even as the Opposition Congress planned a no-confidence motion in the Assembly. The Supreme Court of India had recently sought the services of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory to provide a "sealed-cover report" on "leaked audio tapes" that it is examining, allegedly featuring Mr. Singh as an instigator of the ethnic conflict that has raged for months between two communities in the State. These proximate reasons apart, Mr. Singh's continuation was long made untenable with the ethnic conflict having shown few signs of abating, and him being seen as championing the cause of chauvinists from one group. In any case, the Union Government had, de facto, used the provisions of Article 355 to seize control over law and order without declaring its imposition. The BJP and its allies had also lost both Lok Sabha seats in the 2024 general election, indicating a fatigue in the valley and hill regions with the State government. Mr. Singh's rhetoric about the Kuki-Zo-Hmar communities, persistently accusing them of being "infiltrators" from Myanmar and providing a haven to "drug dealers" and illicit crop cultivators, fuelled the antipathy on both sides of the conflict, while his inability to rein in violent groups that openly brandished sophisticated weapons – many looted from police armouries – created a culture of impunity. With the BJP persisting with his leadership, there was little hope for any reconciliation as civil society activists refused to engage in peace talks.

The Union government and the BJP should now make the best use of the opportunity by looking for a new leader who is unburdened by the shenanigans of Mr. Singh's rule and willing to work towards genuine reconciliation. Second, the Union government should accelerate the process of involving civil society leaders in talks, yet again, to address immediate issues such as the rehabilitation and return of over 60,000 displaced people. This will lay the ground for a political solution and address grievances in the hills and the valley. There are enough instruments in India's federal system that allow for creative solutions within the state-system, which have also worked well in other parts of the country in ending conflicts. But confidence-building measures and an end to wanton violence are a necessity before such solutions are mooted. Mr. Singh's resignation should pave the way for more such measures and it would be remiss on the part of the government to not follow up on these quickly.

Troubled waters

India and Sri Lanka must facilitate discussions among their fishermen

In the latest chapter of the long-standing fisheries dispute in the Palk Bay region, the Sri Lankan Navy arrested 14 fishermen from Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district on February 8 for alleged poaching in waters north of Mannar. Two trawlers were also impounded. On January 27, the Navy had fired at an Indian boat near Delft Island, injuring two fishermen. With these arrests, the total number of Indian fishermen detained this year has risen to 77. Just last week, a Sri Lankan court had released nine fishermen from Karaikal, Puducherry, but one other person received a six-month prison sentence. Additionally, Sri Lankan courts have been imposing hefty fines, complicating their release. Government data over the past decade, based on responses in Parliament, show that in 2024, the number of Indian fishermen arrested in Sri Lanka crossed the 500-mark for the first time in 10 years (528). There were 787 arrests in 2014.

In a letter to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on February 3, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said that 97 fishermen and 216 fishing boats were still under the custody of Sri Lanka. Unlike in the past, when they were quickly released, recent years have seen rising convictions for violations of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and unlawful fishing. While Tamil Nadu and Puducherry fishermen often cross the IMBL, their counterparts in Sri Lanka's Tamil-speaking Northern Province, who are still recovering from the civil war, oppose their fishing methods, particularly ecologically destructive bottom trawling. Northern Sri Lankan fishermen are seeking a sustainable solution that protects their waters from over-exploitative fishing. Indian fishermen have repeatedly sought a fresh round of talks with their Sri Lankan counterparts, with the last such meeting having taken place in November 2016. The issue was also raised in the most recent Joint Working Group meeting in Colombo last October. However, the Anura Kumara Dissanayake-led Sri Lankan government appears reluctant to negotiate. New Delhi and Colombo must recognise that a fresh approach is required to break the deadlock rather than continuing with a business-as-usual mindset. Unlike the cases of Indian fishermen detained in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, the arrests in Sri Lanka are significantly higher. New Delhi must introduce incentives to encourage Palk Bay fishermen to move away from trawling. While this shift will take time, both governments must facilitate immediate discussions between their fishing communities to find interim solutions. It is only through proactive diplomacy and sustainable fishing policies that this ongoing conflict can be addressed effectively.

Gaza and Trump's 'expanding the canvas' strategy

Mahesh Sachdev

is a retired Indian Ambassador with an interest in West Asian geopolitics and hydrocarbons

Donald Trump, a consummate dealmaker, often relies on the "expanding the canvas" strategy to resolve an intractable stalemate. Nevertheless, he made his most audacious ever deal-bid on February 4, 2025: with typical nonchalance, he wanted the Gaza Strip to be depopulated, with its 2.3 million residents being relocated to Egypt and Jordan while the United States was to take over this "demolition site" to develop it into "a riviera for the world's people". While swinging this wrecking ball over Gaza and the region at large, he also hinted that in the next four weeks, he may have another proposal for settling the West Bank issue. Both Mr. Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu – who was on hand – conspicuously praised Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) and hinted that Saudi Arabia would soon join the Abraham Accords. This prompted MbS to promptly state that Saudi Arabia would not establish ties with Israel without the creation of a Palestinian state.

To most observers, Mr. Trump's pitch was chutzpah off his playbook of many recent grandiloquent remarks. To some others, it was a colonial land grab in West Asia, a veritable geopolitical minefield. Its maximalist opening overture seems to be designed to shock the opponent stakeholders into concentrating their minds and coming up with a more realistic counter-offer for eventual settlement on more balanced terms.

A geopolitical reconfiguration

Mr. Trump's "truthful hyperbole" only underlined two undeniable contextual aspects. First, after a particularly brutish and violent epoch since October 7, 2023, vital but volatile West Asia is now tethering on the verge of a profound geopolitical reconfiguration. Second, with a little nudge from its friends, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia might be among its prominent architects.

The 16 months of unprecedented hostilities have demolished several long-standing shibboleths – from Israeli invincibility to the end of the Syrian civil war. The feared Axis of Resistance stands neutered for the time being, although a revival cannot be ruled out. Iran's extensive and carefully assembled strategic outreach from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean has been upended and its deterrence against Israel has been dented. While Israel has managed a pyrrhic victory, its internal and external consequences are still panning out.

The mayhem has convulsed West Asia and bequeathed the hapless region with colossal challenges which can be broadly divided into two intertwined verticals: political and economic.

Politically, the no-holds-barred conflicts and assassinations galore have left the region repolarised with fewer guardrails, lower mutual trust and unsated revengefulness. The regional turmoil can be further segregated into perennial sub-issues crying for lasting solutions such as the Israel-Palestine question, the Iranian quest for nuclear technology, the Kurdish pursuit of national identity and the Yemeni imbroglio. Additionally, the region now also faces a "known unknown" all over again: In his second term, Mr. Trump appears as impulsive as before and more unpredictable.

West Asia is being reconfigured geopolitically with Saudi Arabia as one of its main architects

Although he professes to prioritise the American economic resuscitation, Washington's global entanglements keep ceaselessly knocking at his door. Moreover, his abrasive cowboy diplomacy, his penchant for transactional short-term fixes and his propensity for overbidding are often counterproductive. Further, he may discover that the world in general and West Asia in particular are no longer where they were during Trump 1.0. The Gaza war has thrust forth the centrality of Palestinian statehood, complicating, if not derailing, his vision to expand the Abraham Accords with the inclusion of Saudi Arabia and other Arab states. He also has to contend with the growing influence of the ultra-religious Jewish groups in Israel and the HTS-led Syria.

Economic issues

West Asia's current economic problems are two-fold. The first set is rooted in the conflicts waged over the past few years including in Gaza (rebuilding 1,70,000 houses destroyed is to cost $50 billion), Lebanon ($8.5 billion) and Syria (damage from a 13-year civil war is put at around $500 billion). While humanitarian issues are urgent, a return to socio-economic normalcy would necessarily await the respective political resolutions. In many cases, the western economic sanctions also come in the way. The second regional economic problem is structural: the dependence on hydrocarbons, notoriously fickle natural resources threatened by a global consumption peak by the end of this decade. Recent Trump disruptions including walking away from the Paris climate accord, the launch of the "Drill, baby, drill" campaign and the public call for lower oil prices, make one wonder whether he is part of this specific problem or its solution. The shale revolution has made the U.S. the world's largest hydrocarbon producer, but the technology, being more expensive, is highly price sensitive. If oil prices are drastically forced down, shale technology may no longer be remunerative. Further, an oil glut would dent the West Asian economies which are widely expected to bear the major burden of the huge post-conflict reconstruction.

Moreover, Mr. Trump's tariffs and sanctions blitzkrieg against friends and foes alike has not only disrupted global trade and investment flows but has also led to the strengthening of the U.S. dollar. As most West Asian currencies are tied to the dollar, they have also risen, denting their economic competitiveness and derailing their bids to diversify away from oil.

Spotlight on Saudi Arabia

To help cope with the multiple crises in West Asia, the U.S. and the Kingdom need to reorient their over 80-year-old alliance beyond its traditional "security in return for oil" paradigm. The Kingdom, the region's biggest economy (GDP 1.07 trillion), has come out relatively unscathed by the conflicts waging around it. It is relevant to note that the Saudi Public Investment Fund is estimated to have total assets of $930 billion and Saudi Aramco has a market capitalisation of $1.79 trillion. The country is led by MbS, a pragmatic young leader with an iconoclastic ambition to head the Arab and Islamic world. Apart from hosting two well-attended Arab-Islamic Summits on the Gaza conflict, he has extricated himself from the costly Yemeni civil war and normalised ties with Iran and Qatar. He has deepened links with Russia and China without antagonising Washington. With Saudi Arabia as the world's largest oil exporter, MbS has been a moderating influence on OPEC and OPEC+. A fortnight ago, Mr. Trump told a Davos videoconference that his first official international phone call after re-entering the White House was with MbS, where the Crown Prince offered to invest $600 billion in the U.S. Mr. Trump then coolly asked him to "round off" the figure to $1 trillion. The incident only goes to show that the Kingdom under MbS has what it takes to be a political and economic bulwark for the region.

Before the Gaza war, America's regional diplomacy was focused on Riyadh-Tel Aviv reconciliation. While MbS did not rule out joining the Abraham Accords, he played hardball by asking Washington for stiff concessions including a bilateral security treaty, access to nuclear technology and state-of-the-art weaponry. However, 16 months of sordid bloodletting in Gaza has left plenty of toxicity in its wake, making MbS now insist on a pathway towards a two-state solution, which the Israeli Parliament has officially rejected.

Despite these serious obstacles, the rationale for a Saudi-U.S. re-engagement remains intact as MbS can usefully fund the reconstruction of the war-ravaged regions and leverage Saudi Arabia's profile to persuade doubtful and sullen Arabs to see the merit of a negotiated solution. Mr. Trump's other challenge lies in coaxing the Israeli leadership to be more flexible and go beyond its survival instinct. Thus, while Trump-MbS bromance may or may not launch a trillion-dollar bilateral investment boom, their synergy would be a priceless contribution to healing the mauled West Asia.

India as a bridge between the Global North and South

Pooja Ramamurthi

is an Associate Fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), New Delhi

In his address in January 2025, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, while addressing the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention, the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, said, 'Today's India not only firmly asserts its own point but also strongly amplifies the voice of the Global South'. Similarly, when India held the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit 2024, last August, Mr. Modi said that India aspires to lead the required reforms to take developing countries into a new, more inclusive structure of global governance.

What has influenced India's renewed enthusiasm to champion the cause of the developing world? And, how can the country influence change to become an effective global development partner?

Unlike the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM), India's motivation does not appear to be based on decolonisation or strong criticism of the West. Rather, as India attempts to increase its presence in the Global South, it is simultaneously deepening its relationships with traditional partners such as the United States and Europe. The high-level visit of Jake Sullivan, the former U.S. National Security Adviser, in January, reflects this. Mr. Modi's visit to Poland, in August 2024, also shows India's attempt to create new alliances.

The China factor argument

The cynical answer often circles back to India trying to counter China's growing global dominance. Trends of foreign direct investments in Africa indicate that India appears to be in a race with China, mainly focusing on countries which already have a significant Chinese presence. Further, industrialised countries are thought to be strategically partnering with India to contain China's rising international footprint. The Quad partnership, an on-going dialogue between Japan, India, Australia and the U.S., for a free and fair Indo-Pacific, is seen as one such attempt. However, the India-China competition does not give the full picture.

India is trying to create an individual identity as an emerging power in its own right to forward its own strategic trade, defence, and geopolitical interests. Global South countries are disillusioned with present economic paradigms, burdened with debt and conditionalities. They are not looking for another China or a new western institution. India can fill this gap while being a bridge between the Global North and Global South. To be successful, India needs to back up its rhetoric with the right strategies.

New Delhi's aspiration to be the 'voice' of the Global South can take shape if it also learns to listen

Steps that India must take

The first is for India to double-down on its call for an alternate paradigm of development cooperation that is not solely top-down, dictated by the Global North. India often lays emphasis on equal partnerships with other developing countries, trying to set itself apart from traditional powers. In practice, it signals otherwise by putting forward strategies with an India-first approach.

The newly announced 'Global Development Compact' aimed at facilitating growth in the Global South, was described as rooted in Indian experiences and strategies. India's development story as an emerging power and being the world's largest democracy makes it unique. However, it does not hold all the policy answers. It would merit India to not only assert itself as a provider of knowledge but also be open to learning from other Global South countries to address its domestic challenges. Countries are bound to be more receptive toward a country that views them as partners. Otherwise, India may also be perceived as a big brother imposing traditional donor and recipient relationships.

Second, New Delhi has laid stress on a more human-centric approach to tackle developmental challenges. This has been defined at international fora towards promoting behavioural change via Mission LiFE ('Lifestyle For Environment'), which encourages low consumption lifestyles. While important, the need is to rebrand human-centric development in order to focus on building human resource and capacity, especially to tackle future sustainability challenges. Skill India or schemes that mainstream women into entrepreneurship, will be attractive for countries in the Global South which are also seeking to grow their domestic industry. India's capacity building strategy has tended to revolve around the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, which implements sector-specific short-term activities. It would be more effective for longer term engagement to assist countries in creating their own institutional capacity to create a better workforce. India can leverage its experiences with micro, small and medium enterprises to foster exchanges. A focus on digital infrastructure, climate and energy solutions as well as water and food security are key areas for cooperation.

The goal ahead

Lastly, India has called for more inclusive global governance. The nation demonstrated this intent by championing the addition of the African Union into the G-20 (in 2023) during India's presidency. India should not be content with facilitating changes in established international institutions but also learn to build domestic capacity. As India aspires to become a stronger global development player, it must establish norms, standards and systems to work with partner countries. Initially, it is beneficial to use existing institutional channels of partners such as the United Nations or Germany and France that are more experienced in development cooperation. However, the long-term goal should be for India to create its own robust domestic systems for international cooperation. Trilateral partnerships and increased engagement with new partners need to be seen as a learning by doing process, where India imbibes its experiences to scale up India-led global initiatives.

India aspires to be the 'Voice' of the Global South, but it also must 'listen' to be a good leader. When India spearheaded NAM, the country showed the world that there is a new, third option for developing countries. India should not miss out on an opportunity to do the same thing now.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Delhi result

The defeat of the grand old party in the Delhi election should be an eye-opener to the Gandhi siblings. It is going to be a long road for the Gandhi family to get the slow train moving again.

Arunkumar Sadanand,
Chennai

The Indian electorate is, by and large, a moderately tolerant people, but it does react and flag vulgar extremities of corrupt practices. In Andhra Pradesh, this was fully vindicated in the complete defeat of the YSR Congress Party — the 'Rushikonda palace case' in Vizag is a key example.

Seshagiri Row Karry,
Hyderabad

Interestingly, the BJP beat AAP at its own game by offering freebies. The dismal show by the Congress raises question marks about its ability to win elections.

Gregory Fernandes,
Mumbai

Lessons from deportation

It is quite unfortunate that there is hardly any Indian expatriate who ever says, "I will get back to my country." On the contrary, they say they have better opportunities in Canada, Australia and Germany. The Prime Minister does not say 'we will give them similar if not better opportunities'. On the contrary, there is a silence over the handcuffing of our people. The External Affairs Minister goes to the extent of saying that the U.S. is following standard procedure. India must pursue development and create opportunities.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The problem of regulating live-in relationships

Shraddha Chaudhary

Assistant Professor, School of Law, BML Munjal University, Gurgaon

Uttarakhand recently implemented a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), governing various aspects of civil life. One of the novel aspects of the UCC is that it mandates compulsory registration of opposite-sex live-in relationships, and criminalises those engaged in unregistered non-marital cohabitation. While some of the provisions on live-in relationships are well intentioned, others are problematic and potentially dangerous.

Well intentioned, but...

The biggest concerns around non-marital cohabitation tend to be the protection of the interests of the party that is rendered needy (due to childcare or other household responsibilities or a lack of independent income, for example), and of the rights of any children born to the parties. The UCC goes some way towards addressing these concerns. It declares that children born in live-in relationships will be considered legitimate, which is an improvement on the existing position of law whereby only children born through void or voidable marriages (where a marriage takes place but is legally invalid) are deemed legitimate. The essential legal remedy of maintenance in the event of desertion by a live-in partner is also provided by the law, although desertion in this context remains undefined.

Two potential problems that might arise around these provisions need consideration. First, the maintenance provision might provide a legal recourse to a woman who has been deserted. However, there is no provision for maintenance upon termination (as opposed to desertion), and termination of a live-in relationship requires nothing more than a statement of termination to be submitted to the registrar by either party. This aligns with the informal and flexible nature of non-marital cohabitation but raises its own challenges. When a live-in relationship is terminated (without cause or scope for contestation), a woman may be left with no legal recourse despite needing continuing support. A related concern is that since only opposite-sex live-in relationships can be registered, the Uttarakhand government has left same-sex relationships entirely unprotected.

Second, the very definition of a 'live-in relationship' is nebulous and overbroad. Drawing from the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and case law on domestic violence, the UCC defines a 'live-in relationship' as a relationship 'in the nature of marriage'. But live-in relationships are frequently not in the nature of a marriage. Parties may not see themselves as being 'married in all but name'. Similarly, the one-month period provided for the registration of a live-in relationship appears to misunderstand the typical nature of such a relationship which does not usually have a formal date of commencement because the transformation of a casual sexual relationship, or non-cohabiting intimate sexual relationship, into a live-in relationship tends to be fluid. This legal-social mismatch is likely to compel the registration of sexual relationships that are, in fact, casual and do not require the kind of protections the UCC offers.

The right to sexual autonomy

There are graver problems with these provisions of the UCC. In *Shakti Vahini v. Union of India* (2018), the Supreme Court recognised an adult's right to positive sexual autonomy, encompassing the freedom to make one's own choices about whether and with whom to have sexual interactions. While this is not an unconditional right (being subject to the consent of the other party, laws on public decency, etc.), the essence of the right is that neither the state, nor an adult's family can interfere unreasonably with her consensual sexual choices. However, studies have demonstrated that parents and guardians, through legal (e.g., misuse of rape laws) and extra-legal (e.g., forms of social punishment including violence) means frequently undermine this right. Provisions regulating live-in relationships have the potential to enhance such parental control. The provisions in the UCC mandate that any live-in relationship be registered within one month of its commencement. While the age of sexual consent in India is 18 years, where either partner in the live-in relationship is younger than 21 years, the UCC states that information of the relationship will be sent to the person's parent/guardian. In addition to being an unjustified violation of the adult's right to privacy and sexual autonomy, this provision, by alerting disapproving parents/guardians to inter-caste or inter-religious relationships, in a context where honour-based violence is widespread, is dangerous.

The law also intensifies the control of the state over the sexual choices of individuals. The UCC requires that information of all registered live-in relationships be forwarded to the local police. Such a provision reflects a view of a live-in relationship as a potential law-and-order complication requiring state surveillance. This problematic understanding of the law is further reflected in the unsubstantiated criminalisation of the failure to register a live-in relationship for more than a month, or the refusal to register a live-in relationship after a notice to do so from the registrar – offences punishable by imprisonment and/or hefty fines.

In most jurisdictions which permit or mandate the registration of non-marital cohabitation, the purpose of the law is to extend welfare measures and safeguards available within a marriage to non-marital cohabitation. The Uttarakhand UCC, however, appears to conceptualise 'live-in relationships' as a problem to be solved through regulation. In doing so, the law erodes sexual autonomy and reinforces state and social control of sexual choices.

The Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code erodes sexual autonomy and reinforces state and social control of individuals' sexual choices

Maharashtra: a State of uneven growth

The regional imbalance is stark and has persisted since the State's formation

STATE OF PLAY

Piyush Zaware

Maharashtra, hailed as India's economic powerhouse, presents a paradox. While cities such as Mumbai, Pune, and Thane thrive as global commerce hubs, regions such as Marathwada and Vidarbha are poor and underdeveloped. This stark regional imbalance, persistent since the State's formation in 1960, has widened economic inequality and fuelled social crises, including caste agitations, farmer suicides, and rural discontent.

In 2023-24, the per capita nominal net domestic district product (NDDP) in prosperous districts exceeded ₹3 lakh, while regions such as Washim, Gadchiroli, and Yavatmal recorded per capita incomes below ₹1.5 lakh. This economic gap mirrors disparities in social and human development indicators. A recent NITI Aayog report states that in districts such as Pune and Nagpur, only 3-4% of the population is deprived of essential services such as health, education, and basic amenities. But in Vidarbha and Marathwada, over 10% of the population is classified as multidimensionally poor, with Nandurbar and Dhule seeing alarming rates of 33% and 24%, respectively.

Marathwada's underdevelopment is compounded by its lack of industrial infrastructure. While Western Maharashtra boasts state-planned industrial clusters in places such as Chakan and Ranjangaon, Marathwada has only one major industrial hub at Waluj. This absence of industrial investment, combined with the region's reliance on agriculture, has left it vulnerable to droughts and climate variability. Agricultural distress

is further exacerbated by limited irrigation facilities, erratic monsoons, and an over-reliance on cash crops such as cotton and sugar cane, which are highly sensitive to climate fluctuations.

Farmers continue to rely on unpredictable rainfall and depleting groundwater levels, leading to distress migration and a rise in farmer suicides. Additionally, the growing demand for water-intensive crops in the face of persistent drought conditions has worsened the crisis, making the need for sustainable water management solutions all the more pressing.

Despite multiple efforts to address regional disparities, progress remains slow. Maharashtra has previously appointed two committees – the Dr. V. M. Dandekar Committee in 1984 and the Vijay Kelkar Committee in 2011 – to offer recommendations for equitable development. Unfortunately, many of these recommendations remain unimplemented, and the Statutory Development Boards, which were created to correct the developmental backlog in Marathwada and Vidarbha, remain inactive. This administrative inertia has deepened the developmental divide and bred resentment among marginalised communities.

The State Budget for FY 2024-25 reflects this ongoing imbalance. While larger shares of the divisible outlay have been allocated to regions such as Konkan, Western Maharashtra, and Vidarbha, Marathwada continues to receive a disproportionately smaller portion of resources. While infrastructure and industrial development in Western Maharashtra have received significant investments, Marathwada struggles with basic necessities such as roads, healthcare, and education. The disparity in educational institutions and employment opportunities has led to a talent drain, as young people from Marathwada seek better opportunities in urban centres, further weakening the region's economic base.

This regional imbalance is not merely an economic issue; it is a governance challenge. To ensure inclusive and sustainable growth, the State must adopt a balanced development approach. This includes not only allocating more resources to backward regions but also expediting critical projects such as the Marathwada Water Grid and fostering industrial growth in these areas. The time for half-measures and empty promises is over. The solution lies in bold policy decisions, unwavering political will, and a commitment to ensuring that no region is left behind. Investing in human capital, sustainable infrastructure, and industrial diversification is the key to unlocking balanced growth. The prosperity of Maharashtra must not be the privilege of a few but the right of all its citizens. Only through a holistic and inclusive approach can the State move forward as a truly united economic powerhouse, where Mumbai's skyscrapers and Marathwada's fields flourish together in shared progress.

Piyush Zaware is a researcher at the University of Chicago

Centre's allocations for justice-related schemes fluctuate

Allocations for modernising State police forces are severely underutilised

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

The Central government has consistently reduced budget allocations to certain justice-related schemes and projects since 2019, shows the recently released India Justice Report 2025-26.

Data also show that not only have allocations reduced, but also, only a fraction of the envisaged allocations was actually spent on these schemes.

The Modernisation Fund for the State Police Forces was formed to assist special projects and schemes that would upgrade the infrastructure of States' police as well as Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems. **Chart 1** shows the Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE), and actual expenditure of the Modernisation Fund for the State Police Forces.

The Centre estimated a budget of almost ₹900 crore for FY19. This declined to around ₹780 crore in BE for FY21. In FY26, it has come down to ₹587.97 crore (BE).

While these figures are for BE, RE show a drastic reduction in allocations. For instance, the ₹780 crore that was budgeted in FY21 was revised to ₹106 crore. Such over-estimations in BE and drastic downward revisions in RE can be seen across most years. In FY25, the allocation for the fund was estimated to be ₹520.51 crore and was revised in the following year to ₹160 crore.

More importantly, the amount actually spent was even lower than the RE in most recent years. Despite an allocation of more than ₹600 crore in FY23, only ₹34.7 crore was actually spent on the modernisation of State police forces. This is about 6% of the allocation. Similarly, only 20-25% of the budgeted amounts were spent in FY21, FY23, and FY24.

The newly introduced Modernisation of Forensic Capacities is aimed at improving forensic testing infrastructure across the country and addressing the shortage of forensic scientists. **Chart 2** shows the allocation of funds for the Modernisation of Forensic Capacities. There was a stark increase and then a decrease in allocations over the past few years for this scheme.

The Ministry of Home Affairs also introduced the Modernisation of Prisons Fund more than two decades ago, which aims to improve the living conditions of prisoners, renovate existing prisons, and build new cells. **Chart 3** shows the budgetary allocations for it. Despite an initial increase in budgetary allocations for this scheme, which peaked at ₹400 crore in FY23, allocations have come down to ₹300 crore each in the last two years. Until FY23, the allocation was wholly utilised, after which only 44% of the budgeted fund was utilised.

Alternatively, the schemes related to the judiciary have seen an optimal utilisation of funds over the past few years. **Chart 4** shows the BE and RE of allocations to the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) from FY19 to FY25. Funds allocated to NALSA have increased since FY19, but have generally remained within the range of ₹150 crore to 200 crore, with the exception of the RE of FY24, during which it increased to ₹400 crore. NALSA has reported 100% utilisation of the budgeted amounts for all the years between 2018-19 to 2023-24.

Chart 5 shows the BE and RE of allocations for the development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary from FY19 to FY26. This is a centrally sponsored scheme that was developed to enhance the judicial resources of State governments. Similar to NALSA, this fund has been utilised almost to its full potential across the past five financial years, but has seen a decrease in allocation from ₹1,123.40 crore (FY25) to ₹998 crore (FY26).

The paper trail

The data for the charts were sourced from the Central government's Budget documents and the India Justice Report 2025-26

Chart 1: Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and actual expenditure of the Modernisation Fund for the State Police Forces (in ₹ crore)

Years	Budget Estimates (BE)	Revised Estimates (RE)	Actual Expenditure (AE)
2018-19	897.29	915.79	914.12
2019-20	959.8	939.79	929.58
2020-21	784.53	106.74	159.99
2021-22	668.5	240.49	170.45
2022-23	621.45	152.52	34.72
2023-24	264.12	221.16	65.28
2024-25	520.51	160.12	-
2025-26	587.97	-	-

Chart 2: The Budget Estimates of funds for the Modernisation of Forensic Capacities from FY23 to FY26. Figures in ₹

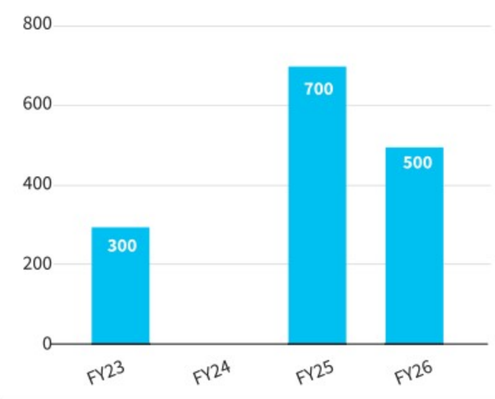


Chart 3: The allocation of funds for the modernisation of prisons from FY22 to FY26. Figures in ₹ crore

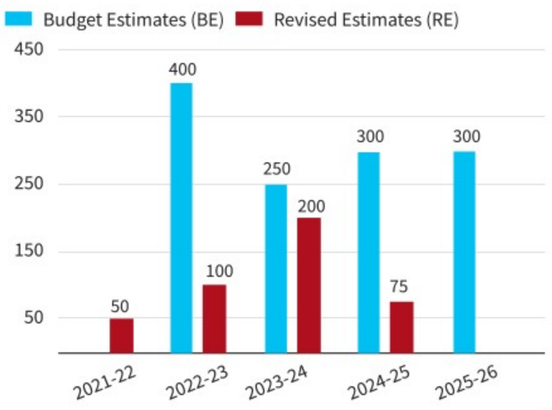


Chart 4: The BE and RE of allocations to the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) from FY19 to FY25

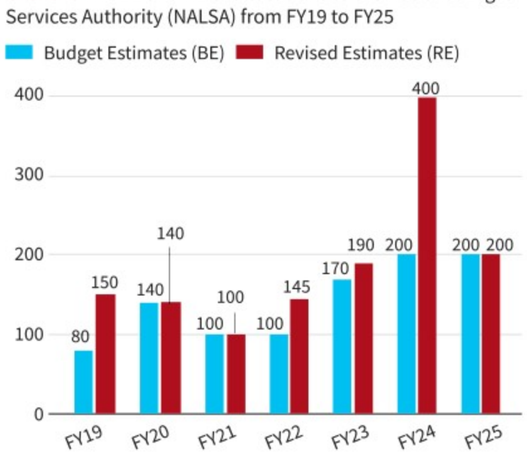
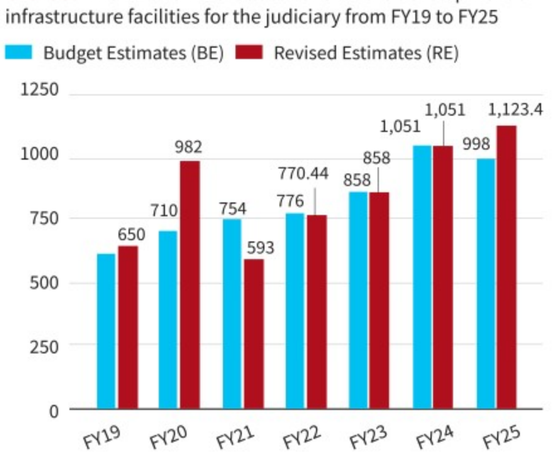


Chart 5: The BE and RE of allocations for the development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary from FY19 to FY25



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 11, 1975

Wilson warns against raw material cartels

London, Feb. 10: There is a growing concern in Western Capitals about the third world, raw material producing countries' "geopolitical power" – its impact, origin and consequences on the developed countries. It is a term which is very much in vogue and the members of the third world are constantly reminded that they will be only cutting their own feet if they went about organising commodity cartels, marketing associations, etc., trying to extract better prices and terms for their raw materials from the developed and richer countries.

India is still not forgiven for letting the Arabs and other oil producers to hike oil prices four times and for justifying the oil producers' decision on merit of the fact that for decades, industrialised countries exploited oil producers to build their economies on cheap oil. It may now seem that there will be growing confrontation between the third world and the developed countries on this score and the British Government has taken a major initiative to warn the raw material producing countries about the consequences of such tactics.

Last night the British Premier Mr. Wilson called for international assurances for commodity exporting countries that would stabilise raw material prices. Mr. Wilson said that unless guarantees were provided about future markets for many key raw materials, exporting countries would form cartels to push up prices. Both Mr. Wilson and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Callaghan, intend to develop this theme at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conference in April.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 11, 1925

Progress made by Australia

General Sir Wm. Birdwood was the guest of the Australian and New Zealand Luncheon Club at the Hotel Cecil in mail week. Sir Edward Lucas, the retiring Agent-General for South Australia, presided.

The Chairman, proposing "Our Guest", said that criticisms were sometimes made on the slow growth at population in Australia; but in a hundred years it had been multiplied more than 200 times; and it was greater than was the population of Canada at the end of its first century. The progress made by Australia in every direction had been extraordinary.

From Page One

BJP scouts for new CM after Biren Singh's exit

A Manipur BJP leader, declining to be named, said the party wanted to take the peace-building process forward. "The State needs to reboot for the sake of development and security. The hunt is for someone acceptable to all communities," he said.

There are unconfirmed reports that the BJP's central leadership would meet the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs, including the BJP's seven, in Delhi, before announcing the name of Mr. Singh's successor.

The non-tribal Meiteis are the largest community in Manipur, concentrated in the Imphal Valley, comprising 40 (along with Jiribam, bordering Assam) of the State's 60 Assembly seats. The remaining 20 seats are in the hills, divided unequally between the Nagas and the Kuki-Zo people.

Speculation over the imposition of the President's Rule or protests against Mr. Singh's resignation had the authorities beef up security across the Imphal Valley, specifically the State capital. The police said the situation was being monitored closely.

Aero India is the Kumbh of research, says Rajnath

"Aero India 2025, a confluence of critical and frontier technologies, will provide a platform to further strengthen relations among like-minded countries based on mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual benefit to deal with today's uncertainties," he said.

He underlined the government's resolve to surpass the ₹1.27 lakh crore defence production and ₹21,000 crore defence export targets in the near future and ensure that the defence sector moves ahead at an unprecedented pace.

The allocation of ₹6.81 lakh crore to the Ministry of Defence in the Union Budget, including ₹1.80 lakh crore for capital acquisition, was proof that the government considered defence as a top-priority sector.

Peace and prosperity

In the present environment of global uncertainty, India had witnessed peace and prosperity, he said. "India has never attacked any country nor has it been involved in any great power rivalry. We have always been an advocate of peace and stability. It is part of our fundamental ideals," he stressed.

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar appealed to the Defence Minister to consider incentives for aircraft and helicopter manufacturers who set up units in Karnataka and in India.

"Karnataka, particularly Bengaluru, boasts some of the best talent in the aerospace industry, making it an ideal location to establish aircraft- and helicopter-manufacturing facilities. By offering incentives to manufacturers, we could retain this talent within India, prevent brain drain," Mr. Shivakumar said.

SC asks Ravi why he did not reveal his objections

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, representing the Tamil Nadu government with senior advocates Rakesh Dwivedi and P. Wilson, said, "Good governance required the Governor to communicate reasons for withholding consent."

Mr. Venkataramani asked if the Governor had acted outside his jurisdiction by withholding assent and referring the Bills to the President after finding them repugnant.

Mr. Singhvi said that once the Governor withholds consent and returns the Bills, with or without giving reasons, it was within the powers of the State Legislature to re-consider the Bills under the first proviso of Article 200 of the Constitution. In this case, the Tamil Nadu Assembly re-examined the Bills and sent them again to the Governor for assent.

At one point, Justice Mahadevan asked why the State took only five days for re-passing the 10 Bills. The Governor had withheld consent on November 13, 2023.

Mr. Singhvi said the State Legislature was the "boss" in the constitutional sense under Article 200 and the Governor had no discretion under the provision.

Bangladesh cracks down on Hasina loyalists

On February 5, six months to the day since Ms. Hasina fled as crowds stormed her palace in Dhaka, protesters smashed down buildings connected to her family using excavators.

Buildings destroyed included the museum and former home of Ms. Hasina's late father, Bangladesh's first President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, sparking condemnation from a group of civil rights activists.

Members of the Students Against Discrimination – the protest group credited with sparking the uprising against Ms. Hasina – were attacked in the Dhaka district of Gazipur on Friday, hours after interim leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus appealed for calm.

The vocal and powerful group – whose members are in the government cabinet – then demanded action.

The operations have raised concerns.

Budget benefits the rich too, says Chidambaram

About 2.27 lakh who had returned income of over ₹1 cr. will benefit from income tax breaks, he says; the Budget was politically driven, keeping the Delhi election in mind, says Congress leader

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Initiating the debate on the Union Budget in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, senior Congress MP P. Chidambaram said the income tax proposals in the Budget presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman benefited not just the middle class but also the rich and the richest in the world.

He said about 80 lakh to 85 lakh tax payers will be out of the tax net from next year and 2.5 crore tax payers will benefit from the new tax proposals. "This 2.5 crore includes not only the middle class which the Finance Minister passionately champions, it includes 2,27,315 persons who returned the income of more than ₹1 crore. It includes 262 persons who returned the income of more than ₹100 crore and it includes 23 persons who returned a total income of more than ₹500 crore," he said.

Raising concerns: P. Chidambaram addressing the Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Mr. Chidambaram questioned the claim that the Centre had foregone ₹1 lakh crore by way of the I-T breaks. "Yet she has claimed that the net tax revenues to the Centre will grow by 11.1% in 2025-26. In 2024-25 also it grew by 11%. After foregoing ₹1 lakh crore in this budget, how does she claim that the net tax revenues to the Centre will grow by the same 11%? This is pure magic, not mathematics," the former Union Finance Minister said.

Mr. Chidambaram also alleged that the Budget was politically driven, keeping the Delhi election in mind. "There ought to be a philosophy behind the Budget, but I cannot find one in this Budget. I shall not attempt to do so because after going through the Budget speech and Budget numbers, I believe there is no philosophy behind the Budget," he said.

The senior Congress leader added: "It is obvious that the Budget was politically driven, I shall not elaborate upon that but I congratulate the Finance Minister for achieving one of her objectives a couple of days ago," apparently referring to the results of the Delhi Assembly polls in which the BJP won.

Mr. Chidambaram criticised the Budget for reducing the allocation to MGNREGS and the decision not to cut GST and taxes on petrol and diesel.

"What has this Budget done for the average Indian household in the bottom 50% and the bottom 25%? Nothing? What relief has the Finance Minister given them?" Mr. Chidambaram asked. "She could have raised the minimum wages across the board," he said.

BJP terms Budget a booster shot as Oppn. rakes up slowdown

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Members of the Opposition and Treasury benches went head-to-head during a discussion on the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

BJP leader Anurag Thakur answered Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's criticisms of the Budget. He defended the Budget, calling it a "force multiplier."

"Rahul Gandhi said this is a band-aid Budget. I want to inform Rahul *ji* that this is not a band-aid Budget. It's a booster Budget, a booster dose," Mr. Thakur said, holding up a poster that said anyone earning up to ₹12 lakh annually will pay zero income tax.

Congress broadside

Senior Congress leader and Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari pilloried the government on a range of issues: lower than expected growth rate, inadequate private investment, slow growth rate in agriculture, falling value of the rupee, and increasing public debt.

Mr. Tewari said the government of India had a debt of ₹55,87,149.33 crore as on March 31, 2014, which is expected to increase to ₹1.96 lakh crore by March 31 next year.

"You have created intergenerational debt by placing this burden on the coming generation. They will have to service the debt which is being created by the government," Mr. Tewari said.

He claimed the government was "forced" to provide tax reliefs to the middle class to turn the wheels of the economy as earlier stimulus to corporates had not worked. The Congress leader also asserted that the common man continues to face problems due to the government's economic policies.

Welcoming the tax rebate, NCP (Sharad Pawar) MP Supriya Sule said "all is not well," and the economy is slowing down. "I request the government to introspect... just winning elections does not mean all is well," Ms. Sule said.

BJP MP claims USAID funded organisations to stir unrest in India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party MP Nishikant Dubey on Monday alleged that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) had been funding organisations in India that worked to create unrest in the country, and asked the Centre to initiate an investigation into the matter.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Dubey said recently the United States has seen a change in government and President Donald Trump has "shut down USAID on the basis that it was spending money only to make different governments across the world collapse".

USAID is an independent agency of the U.S. government that manages foreign aid and development assistance.

'backed caste census'

Mr. Dubey claimed that the USAID funded organisations carried out protests against the Agniveer initiative of the government, backed caste census, and supported Naxalism in the country.

As the Jharkhand MP made the allegations, several Congress members rose in protest and trooped into the well of the House. The MPs wanted to raise a point of order which was disallowed by Sandhya Ray, who was in chair. Ms. Ray is a BJP member.

The Congress members later met Speaker Om Birla to register their objections to Mr. Dubey being allowed to make unsubstantiated claims in the House.

14 cr. Indians denied food security cover due to delay in census: Sonia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nearly 14 crore Indians find themselves excluded from the cover of National Food Security Act because of the inordinate delay in conducting population census, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi said in the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

She was speaking during the Zero Hour which allows members to raise issues of national importance. It was her maiden intervention after being elected to the Rajya Sabha last year. Ms. Gandhi said beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) are being identified as per the 2011 Census, and not the latest population numbers.

The Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson called the NFSA introduced by the UPA government in September 2013 a landmark initiative aimed at ensuring food and nutritional security for the country's 140 crore population.

For the cause of the poor: Sonia Gandhi addressing the Rajya Sabha during the Budget session in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

She said that the quota for beneficiaries is still determined based on the 2011 Census. The National Food Security Act, 2013, provides for coverage of up to 75% of the rural and up to 50% of the urban population for receiving highly-subsidised foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), which according to 2011 Census comes to about 81.35 crore.

At present, the government provides 5 kg of free food grains per person per month under the food security law. "For the first time in the history of independent India, the decennial census has been delayed by more than four years. It was originally scheduled for 2021, but there is still no clarity as to when the census will be conducted," she said.

Ms. Gandhi also claimed that the Budget allocations show that the Census is unlikely to be conducted this year. Around 14 crore eligible Indians are thus being deprived of their rightful benefits under the NFSA, she said.

"It is imperative that the government prioritises completion of the census as soon as possible and ensures that all deserving individuals receive the benefits guaranteed to them under the NFSA. Food security is not a privilege. It is a fundamental right," Ms. Gandhi said.

Biren quitting not an act of conscience: Congress MP

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

A day after Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh resigned from his post following a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, Congress MP from Manipur A. Bimol Akoijam on Monday said that Mr. Singh's removal was "not an act of conscience; it was because the Centre was compelled to remove him".

Mr. Akoijam also insisted that the reason Mr. Singh had lost the support of his own party's legislators was because of the constant pressure created by the Opposition, in Parliament and outside, especially after the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Akoijam said that the real test for the Centre's intent for Manipur was yet to come. "Whether they take it as a moment to correct themselves will show whether they care," he told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Kuki-Zo legislators planning huddle over next steps this week

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

With one of the top demands of Manipur's Kuki-Zo community, that of N. Biren Singh's removal as Chief Minister, materialising over the past two days, the State's 10 Kuki-Zomi-Hmar MLAs are now set to schedule a meeting within this week to discuss the way forward to end the crisis that began with the ethnic conflict on May 3, 2023.

While the 10 Kuki-Zomi-Hmar legislators, seven of whom are with the BJP, feel it will be tricky to arrive at a decision that "balances party discipline with what the people – constituents – want", civil society leaders of the community told *The Hindu* that amongst the people and themselves, there is "real concern" over how committed the MLAs might be to pressing for the demand for a separate administration.

Within days of the conflict breaking out and Meitei and Kuki-Zo people being sequestered to the Valley and hill areas respectively, the Kuki-Zo communities had asserted that "separation is the only solution", which solidified into a demand for a Union Territory with legislature for Kuki-Zo people under the Constitution.

One of the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar MLAs told *The Hindu*: "Within this week, we will convene a meeting to discuss what next. But it will be a little tricky because many of the MLAs will have to balance party discipline with what their people want."

While civil society organisations have so far shown no indication of issuing any formal statement after Mr. Singh's resignation, Ginza Vualzong, spokesperson for the Kuki-Zo Council, a relatively recently-formed coalition of civil society organisations, said on X, "Whether Biren resigned or not, the Kuki-Zo aspiration for a separate administration remains."

No internal differences, says Manipur BJP chief

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Manipur BJP president A. Sharda Devi has claimed that internal differences did not lead to Nongthombam Biren Singh's resignation as the Chief Minister of the State.

"The Chief Minister resigned for the people of Manipur, keeping the State's future in mind after requesting the Centre to safeguard the integrity of Manipur and ensure the safety of its citizens," she said hours after Mr. Singh submitted his resignation. "There were no differences among the BJP legislators," she asserted.

It is believed that Mr Singh's move, on the advice of the BJP's central leadership, followed a decision to let a new set of leaders handle the challenges Manipur faces.

The Kuki-Zo Council said the resignation of Mr. Singh makes no difference to their demand for a separate administration.

Modi, Shah protected Biren, failed to quell violence: Kanimozhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Commenting on the resignation of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, DMK member in the Lok Sabha Kanimozhi Karunanidhi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah must take responsibility for the communal violence that occurred in Manipur.

Kanimozhi Karunanidhi

She said Mr. Singh resigned from the post of Chief Minister for his role in causing numerous human casualties. Mr. Singh was compelled to resign as recordings of his hate speeches directed towards minority communities have surfaced, she said.

Ms. Kanimozhi said the communal violence in Manipur has resulted in more than 220 deaths, with more than 60,000 people displaced from the State. "People who had taken refuge in government's relief camps were even abducted and killed. Besides, women were subjected to sexual harassment and violence. These atrocities were carried out with the support of the State government and its affiliates," she alleged.

Ms. Kanimozhi said Manipur stands as a proof of the BJP's fascist politics, which divides people and exploits their deaths for political gains. "Not only Biren Singh but also Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, who protected Biren Singh and failed to contain the violence in Manipur, must own responsibility for the worsened situation prevailing in that State," she said.

PHOTOS: K. MURALI KUMAR

Moment of joy: Visitors at the inauguration of Aero India at the Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru on Monday.

In sync: Hawk Mk-132 jets of the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team during manoeuvres as part of the air show.

Sea of visitors: Delegates and others during the inauguration of the Aero India event in Bengaluru.

Touching the skies: Indian Coast Guard Do-228 planes fly past in Rakshak formation during the air show.

HAL renames upgraded trainer aircraft 'Yashas'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's Hindustan Jet Trainer (HJT)-36 was renamed Yashas on the inaugural day of Aero India. The aircraft was earlier called Sitara. The defence PSU said the trainer had undergone extensive modifications to resolve departure characteristics and spin resistance throughout the aircraft envelope.

"The large-scale changes to the baseline intermediate training platform has led to significant upheaval in its capabilities and hence provided an opportunity for a new name to be given in accordance with the aircraft's continued relevance as a training system for modern military aviation", said D.K. Sunil, Chairman and Managing Director, HAL.

The HAL said that it was capable of Stage II pilot training, counter insurgency and counter surface force operations, armament training, and aerobatics. It added that the capabilities of HJT-36 are stall and spin, aerobatics, armament carriage up to 1000 kg, single point ground refuelling and defuelling.

'Self-reliance push drives Indian defence industry'

Rajnath says global companies must utilise opportunities offered by domestic defence ecosystem; overall ease of doing business has improved 'tremendously', he adds at the CEO roundtable

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that the Indian defence ecosystem is driven by policies of self-reliance in defence production, facilitated by a conducive policy regime, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday asked chief executive officers (CEOs) of global defence companies to utilise the opportunities offered by the domestic defence ecosystem.

Listing out measures taken in this regard, he said the portal, Defence Exim, had made the export authorisation process seamless and 46 joint ventures and companies were given foreign investment approval in the defence sector till date.

Mr. Singh was addressing a "CEO Roundtable" at Aero India 2025 with the theme "Enabling Defence Cooperation through Global Engagement" (EDGE), which saw Original Equipment Manufacturers from 19 countries, including 35 Indian private companies and 16 defence public sector undertakings.

Highlighting advances: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the inauguration of Aero India in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Elaborating on steps taken to "make the domestic defence industry an important component" of the national economy in order to facilitate India's transition from a developing to a developed country by 2047, he said, "We have allowed FDI up to 75% through the Automatic Route for companies seeking new defence licence, while 100% is allowed under government approval route."

Defence corridors

Mr. Singh told the audience that more than 250 MoUs were signed for the establishment of industrial units in the Defence Industrial Corridors set up in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

The Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme was introduced to provide financial assistance to the aerospace and defence sector for setting up six-eight greenfield testing and certification facilities. As a testimony to the emergence of India as a defence export nucleus, the country has seen 31-fold growth "in the export of products in the last 10 years as compared to Financial Year 2013-14", he said.

He further said over 500 start-ups and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) were working under the aegis of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), with focus on innovative projects in defence sector.

"Our overall ease-of-doing-business environment has improved tremendously. This is showing great results as India has the third largest start-up ecosystem in the world today. This is expected to witness year-on-year growth of 10-12%. We possess a young generation of highly-skilled workforce, which constantly updates itself in the face of the fast-changing ecosystem of the world. You must not miss the opportunity to leverage the advantages of this ecosystem," Mr. Singh added.

"The use of drones in recent conflicts indicates that the future would depend on the integrated efforts of manned, unmanned and autonomous warfare systems. Hence, our defence manufacturing has to focus on creating counter measures for these emerging challenges," he stated.

LCA-Mk2 prototype likely to be rolled out by 2025-end, AMCA by early 2027: officials

Dinakar Peri
BENGALURU

The first prototype of the country's fifth-generation fighter jet, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft or AMCA, is expected to be rolled out by the end of 2026 or early 2027, while the first prototype of the Light Combat Aircraft-Mk2, which is a bigger and more capable version of the LCA, is expected by the end of this year, officials of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) said.

The two programmes are critical for the IAF's modernisation plans, with force strength down to 31 fighter squadrons.

"The LCA-MK2 is in very advanced stage. All the jigs and fixtures have been completed. The airframe is on the assembly line. We will be making a roll-out by year-end and flying in the first quarter of 2026," said Jitendra J. Jadhav, Director-General of ADA.

"We are very confident it will get inducted from 2028-29, he said, adding "It has all indigenously weapons and about 11 weapon stations. So it will be one of the mighty lethal weapon platforms for the IAF."

For the future: A model of India's AMCA, which is a fifth-generation fighter aircraft. ANI

Given the huge delays in new inductions and rapid modernisation of fighters by China and Pakistan, there is pressure to speed up development process.

Development phase

"The full-stealth AMCA aircraft programme was sanctioned by the government in April 2024. The development phase has just begun and we are anticipating that this aircraft will touch the sky towards the end of 2028. The total duration of the development phase is 10 years. The aircraft will be certified by 2032 and the plan for induction will be 2034 in the IAF," said Krishna Rajendra Neeli, Outstanding Scientist and Officiating Project Director of the AMCA programme, speaking to *The Hindu* at Aero India.

The AMCA is a fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA) and its primary role is as a stealth aircraft. While armament of around 1.5 tonnes can be carried internally, the AMCA can also carry weapons at its wing station as a non-stealth aircraft, he said.

In terms of timelines, Mr. Neeli explained that five prototypes are planned to be manufactured for development and testing and initially, four aircraft would be manufactured per year for a few years, by which time the manufacturing line will stabilise to ramp up production.

India, U.K. sign several agreements to strengthen defence cooperation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The United Kingdom on Monday announced the formal launch of the "Defence Partnership-India", or DP-I, a dedicated cell within the U.K. Ministry of Defence for deepening cooperation with India.

The Aero India also saw several defence cooperation agreements between India and the U.K., which covered production of Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) and Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM), as well as establishment of an Advanced Short-Range Air to Air Missile (ASRAAM) assembly and test facility in India. A Statement of Intent (SoI) was also signed to design and develop an Integrated Full Electric Propulsion (IFEP) system for Indian Navy ships.

The U.K. announces a dedicated cell for deepening bilateral defence cooperation with India

U.K. Defence Minister Lord Vernon Coaker announced the DP-I while opening the U.K.-India Defence Partnership pavilion at Aero India, and the dedicated programme office within the U.K.'s Ministry of Defence will serve as a one-stop shop for strengthening bilateral defence collaboration, the U.K. High Commission said.

Thales U.K. and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed a contract that will deliver Laser Beam-Riding MANPADs (LBRMs), with an initial supply of STARStreak high-velocity missiles and launchers set for delivery this year.

In another development, following the signing of this initial LBRM contract, both Thales and BDL will further collaborate to produce LMMs, the statement said. This "develops and expands the partnership between Indian and British industry, laying the foundation for BDL and Indian industry to form an integral part of Thales' global supply chain", it stated.

"It will address mutual security concerns, create jobs in both countries and enable interoperability by both armies."

The statement added that MBDA U.K. and BDL were working on the installation of a first-of-its-kind ASRAAM assembly and test facility in Hyderabad, for missiles that would be carried by Jaguar and Light Combat Aircraft-Mk1A.

Stealth aircraft from Russia and U.S. showcase their aerial capabilities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Visitors witnessed a scintillating aerial display by two of the most advanced fifth-generation fighter aircraft in the world on the inaugural day of Aero India here on Monday.

At 2.30 p.m. the Russian Su-57, which was making its debut at the air show, took off from the tarmac of the Air Force Station, Yelahanka and for the next few minutes Sukhoi's chief test pilot, Sergey Bogdan, performed a series of manoeuvres showcasing the unique aerial capabilities of the stealth aircraft.

Making a debut: Russia's Su-57 fighter jet takes off during the inauguration of Aero India in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Su-57, developed by Sukhoi Design Bureau, is Russia's first operational stealth fighter with supersonic cruising speeds, advanced sensor integration, and a wide range of weapons. It can be recalled that India was part of the joint Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft programme with Russia before withdrawing in 2018.

After the Russian fifth-generation fighter landed, the U.S.'s F-35 Lightning II took to the skies to demonstrate its capabilities.

After performing some of its signature manoeuvres, the aircraft landed. The F-35 Lightning II has been developed by Lockheed Martin.

This is the second time that the U.S stealth aircraft is taking part in Aero India.

The F-35A Lightning II is the newest fifth-generation fighter of the USAF with stealth, supersonic, and multi-role capabilities.

Modi arrives in France for AI summit, talks with Macron

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in France on a three-day visit during which he will co-chair an AI Action Summit with French President Emmanuel Macron and hold bilateral talks with him.

Representing the Global South in the Paris AI Action Summit, broadening consular and diplomatic ties, and nuclear research are some of the items on the agenda of Mr. Modi's visit to France, an official statement said on Monday.

The official statement issued ahead of his departure for the two-nation tour covering France and the U.S. informed that he will be co-chairing the AI Action Summit, which will be held in Paris on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Warm welcome: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with members of the Indian diaspora in France on Monday. PTI

The AI summit is the third in a series of global initiatives on artificial intelligence after the AI Safety meet in the U.K. in 2023 and South Korea in 2024. The summit in Paris will focus on innovation, public interest, future of work and issues in AI governance. India is expected to represent the voice of the Global South on AI-related issues.

Economic cooperation

The bilateral component of the visit will begin after the AI summit and will include interaction with the India-France CEOs Forum where Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron will lay down respective visions of economic cooperation. On Tuesday evening, Mr. Macron will host a dinner in honour of Mr. Modi.

During the visit, the two sides will review the progress on the 2047 Horizon Road map for India-France strategic partnership. A new Indian consulate at Marseille will also be opened. Mr. Modi will visit the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project which is a major international project on energy generation and nuclear research.

"I will also pay tribute to the Indian soldiers who laid down their lives during World War I and II at the Mazargues War Cemetery," Mr. Modi said in a statement. The cemetery is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission which looks after similar graves across Europe where Indian soldiers sacrificed themselves during the two World Wars.

Following the visit to France, Mr. Modi is scheduled to take off for the United States.

"In Washington DC, I look forward to meeting President Donald Trump, This visit will further cement India-USA friendship and boost ties in diverse sectors. I warmly recall working with President Trump during his first term and I am sure our talks will build on the ground covered then," Mr. Modi said in a post on X.

(With PTI inputs)

President takes holy dip at Maha Kumbh

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

President Droupadi Murmu took a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj on Monday. She said the Maha Kumbh was a wonderful and living symbol of India's rich cultural heritage.

"Today I had the good fortune of bathing in the holy confluence of *Maa* Ganga, Yamuna, and the inner stream Saraswati in the divine atmosphere of Maha Kumbh. This huge gathering of faith and belief is a wonderful and living symbol of India's rich cultural heritage. Maha Kumbh gives the message of unity and spirituality to humanity. I pray to *Maa* Ganga that she keeps her blessings on everyone," Ms. Murmu said.

President Droupadi Murmu in Prayagraj on Monday. PTI

INBRIEF

HC allows custody parole to jailed MP Engineer Rashid

The Delhi High Court on Monday allowed two-day custody parole to jailed Jammu and Kashmir MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh alias Engineer Rashid to attend the ongoing Parliament session on February 11 and 13. Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to the place of his visit. The court said Mr. Rashid would be ferried to the Lok Sabha and back. It said Mr. Rashid cannot use mobile phone or address media. The Baramulla MP is facing trial in a terror funding case in which he is charged with funding separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

Bill introduced to resolve disputes involving aircraft

Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu on Monday tabled a Bill in Parliament that seeks to recognise the international treaty on resolution of disputes related to recovery of aviation assets such as aircraft and engines, often seen between airlines and lessors, including during airline shutdowns. The Minister tabled the Protection and Enforcement of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025 in the Rajya Sabha. It seeks to implement the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, 2001 or Cape Town Convention (CTC) and Protocol.

'Key Maoist leader among 31 killed in Bijapur encounter'

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Security personnel after their encounter with Maoists in Farsegarh Jungle in Bijapur. PTI

Members of the West Bastar Division, a sub-zonal military formation of Naxals, were among the 31 Maoists gunned down by security forces in the National Park area of Chhattisgarh's Bijapur on Sunday, the police said on Monday.

The five identified so far include a secretary of the West Bastar Division, who was responsible for several attacks on security forces and the killing of villagers in the area.

Addressing a press conference in Bijapur, Inspector-General of Police, Bastar Range, P. Sundarraj said Hunga Karma, the secretary or divisional committee member of the West Bastar Division, was carrying a reward of ₹8 lakh on his arrest. He added that Karma's significance in the area was beyond the award money. "He has masterminded many terror attacks and murdered and harassed villagers, apart from attacking security forces several times in the past two decades," he said.

Others include Mangu Hemla, Subhash Oyam and Sannu, each carrying a reward of ₹5 lakh, and Ramesh, who carried a reward of ₹2 lakh on his head. They all held ranks in various area committees in the West Bastar division.

Of the 65 Maoists gunned down in the Bastar region this year, 56 were from Bijapur, one of the seven districts in the left-wing extremism affected region, Mr. Sundarraj said, underscoring the critical security challenges of the area where large parts still remain outside the reach of the State.

The IGP said that Sunday's operation was crucial because the National Park area is considered as one of the citadels of the Maoists.

India may offer lower duties on pecans to pacify Trump

Officials hope to soften Trump's stance on India being a tariff abuser with these concessions and a fact sheet on import duties already being low or zero on several U.S. industrial goods exports

Vikas Dhoot
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bilateral meetings with U.S. President Donald Trump this week, which are likely to include intense parleys on tariffs, may involve some offers for further reductions in import duties on items of U.S. interest such as the uniquely American pecan nuts grown in its south-western States.

Officials hope such concession offers, along with a detailed fact sheet on the country's import duties being quite low or even zero on America's major industrial goods exports to India, could help soften Mr. Trump's stance about it being a tariff abuser.

From low to lower

"India is now very friendly in terms of industrial goods," a top government official said. "On agriculture, we may have sensitivities but we have already reduced duties on items of U.S. interest like almonds. Now, there are some other items like pecan nuts that we can look at cutting duties on in due course," he said, requesting anonymity.

India levied a 100% import duty on pecan nuts till early 2023, when it was slashed to 30%. However, there is scope for further cuts on such U.S. farm products not produced locally, the official indicated.

The government is hopeful that after meeting Prime Minister Modi, Mr. Trump may water down or suspend some decisions seen as hurting India's interests, as he had in the case of tariffs against Mexico and Canada.

Pointing to the fact that Mr. Modi will be among the first to meet President Trump bilaterally, after leaders of Israel and Japan, while leaders of Jordan, Egypt and the United Kingdom are also expected to visit Washington soon, an External Affairs Ministry official stressed the special relationship the two leaders share.

New Delhi is also keen to lobby with the U.S. President to restore the special status for Indian exporters under its Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) that he had revoked in 2019.

'Tariff as negotiation'

"With Trump, there is always the 'art of the deal'," said US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) president and CEO Mukesh Aghi.

"Trump is using tariff as a way of negotiating - and he was able to get his way with Canada and Mexico. There is an obvious camaraderie between him and PM Modi, which can and should be translated into a win-win proposition for both," he added.

Mr. Aghi also suggested that negotiating a Free Trade Agreement and ensuring India purchases American defence equipment and energy are amongst the U.S. President's priorities.

Tariff matrix

The table shows the current tariffs on top U.S. exports to India

Product	Basic customs duty
Crude petroleum	₹1 per metric tonne
Diamond	5%
Coking coal, steam coal	2.75%
Aeroplanes	2.5%*
LNG	2.75%
Gold	6%
Aluminium and scrap	2.50%
Other types of waste, scrap	0.00%
Saturated acrylic hydrocarbons	2.50%
Suspension grade PVC resin	7.50%
Non-industrial diamonds	0.00%
Bleached/semi-bleached coniferous wood	5%

** zero if imported by a scheduled commercial operator*

How can convicted persons return to make laws, asks SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked how convicted persons could return to Parliament and State legislatures, saying there was an apparent conflict of interest if people found guilty of breaking the law returned as lawmakers.

"Once convicted, how can people come back to Parliament and Legislatures? There is an apparent conflict of interest," Justice Dipankar Datta, heading a Bench comprising Justice Manmohan, observed.

The court is hearing petitions, including one filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, seeking a lifetime ban on convicted persons from contesting elections.

The government, in an affidavit filed by the Ministry of Law and Justice in the top court in 2020, had rejected the idea of a lifetime ban on convicted persons contesting elections, or forming or becoming an office-bearer of a political party.

The government had maintained that disqualification under Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act of 1951 for the period of the prison sentence and six years thereafter was enough for legislators. The Ministry had reasoned that MPs and MLAs were not bound by specific "service conditions".

"They are bound by propriety, good conscience and interest of the nation," the Ministry had argued.

Concentrate on your studies, ignore external pressures, PM tells students

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Giving direction: Narendra Modi interacts with students during the Pariksha Pe Charcha programme on Monday. ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said it was unfortunate that society had ingrained the idea in children that not scoring good marks in Board exams meant their life was ruined. This only added to the pressure children already felt, he pointed out.

He made the comments while interacting with students of Sunder Nursery, New Delhi, during the eighth edition of *Pariksha Pe Charcha*. Referring to how a batsman would concentrate solely on the ball during a cricket match, he encouraged children to ignore all such external pressure and concentrate on their studies.

Mr. Modi remarked on the importance of self-reflection, urging the students to frequently ask themselves what they could achieve and what actions would bring them satisfaction. He spoke to the children about the importance of nutrition, urging them to eat millets and seasonal fruits.

Mr. Modi extolled the importance of good sleep towards ensuring fitness. He also stressed the benefits of sunlight, asking children to make it a habit of soaking in the morning sunlight for a few minutes every day.

Tips on good leadership

Asked to share tips on good leadership, the Prime Minister said that a leader was not defined by external appearances and always led by example. "Leadership is not imposed but accepted by those around you," Mr. Modi said.

Mr. Modi urged teachers not to confine children to a rigid academic structure as that would only stunt their growth. He laid stress on the importance of an open environment, adding that lessons like gardening might seem irrelevant but contribute to overall development of children.

He highlighted the importance of developing the habit of writing and also talked about the need for identifying unique strengths of children.

Addressing the issue of parental pressure over children's career choices, he remarked that parents' expectations often stemmed from comparing their children with others and advised them not to "showcase" the children as "models" but to love and accept their strengths.

Overcoming failure

Speaking about overcoming failure, Mr. Modi remarked that even if 30%-40% of students failed in their Class 10 and 12 exams, life did not end with that.

He also advised students to solve previous exam papers in order to learn to write concise answers and manage time efficiently.

Case registered after row breaks out over YouTuber's comment

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Ranveer Allahbadia

YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia issued an apology on Monday for making a controversial remark that has drawn widespread criticism.

Politicians, including Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Opposition leaders in the State, condemned him for misusing freedom of speech.

The 31-year-old social media influencer, who has lakhs of followers, made the remark in comedian Samay Raina's YouTube show *India's Got Latent*.

The comment led to police complaints against Mr. Allahbadia, social media influencer Apoorva Makhija, Mr. Raina, and other organisers of the show.

The Mumbai Police said they were conducting an inquiry.

Priyank Kanoongo, member of the National Human Rights Commission, in a letter to YouTube, directed the platform to take down the "obscene and vulgar" video.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the Guwahati Police have filed a first information report against Mr. Raina, Mr. Allahbadia, and others under various Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for promoting obscenity and participating in sexually explicit conversations on the show.

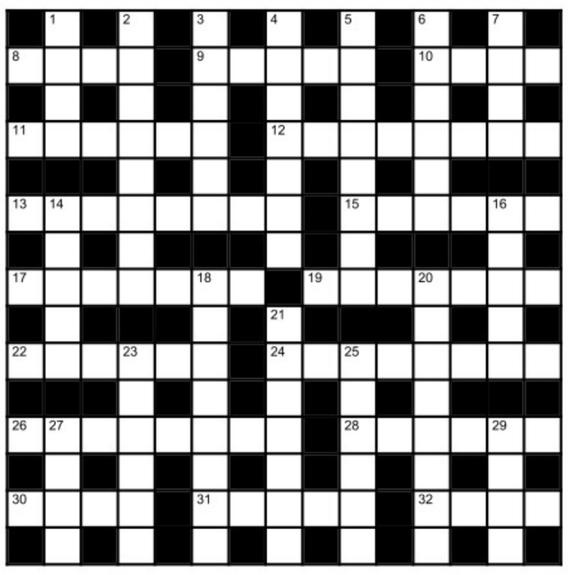
In a video, Mr. Allahbadia said, "I shouldn't have said what I said. I'm sorry."

TH CROSSWORD + 14405

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Average time to produce component (4)
9 Operation? Time for entertainment! (5)
10 Places for getting nourishment in North and South (4)
11 The French aristocrat is discharged without punishment (3,3)
12 Do women book personal area in centre of city? (8)
13 What star produces in Panama, for example? (5,3)
15/23D Jump and fall in the US? (6,6)
17 Type of clouds one may see soon after Monday (7)
19 Half of herons call for fish (7)
22 Starting to run in the country results in injury (6)
24 Stall fee revised in handbills (8)
26 Captain is holding very extraordinary leaders and prisoners (8)
28 Gypsum merchant's totalling machine (6)
30 Allege losing one crustacean (4)
31 Damp beam covering centre of mine (5)
32 Phillip's seeds (4)

Down

1 Go out with daughter, getting tea mixture (4)
2 Members of Turkish dynasty cook tomato with natural salt at first (8)
3 Fool returns with a hot bathroom accessory (6)
4 Once more editor corrects "Dieters" incorrectly (2-5)
5 Always destroyed before alien returns... Destroy! (3,5)
6 Tops of new trees protected by bent wire in cold season (6)
7 Precipitation in frigid weather falls nowadays to some extent (4)
14 Left back carrying nothing for group of soldiers (5)
16 Group of nine performers — one mentioned in New Testament (5)
18 Around 4, Monroe is irritated and is capable of eating plant and animal matter (8)
20 Seafood items produced by students in dilapidated rooms around park (8)
21 Maybe it's lace and capable of stretching (7)
23 See 15 Across
25 Quantitative and qualitative assessments of Sulfur, for example, in Arsenic (6)
27 Partner from Montreal lying partly (4)
29 Old post office exhibition (4)

SUDOKU

		7		3				
						1	3	
			6	8	2		5	
	2	5						7
7	9		4		3		6	2
6						3	9	
	4		3	7	8			
	3	2						
				4		5		

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	A	C	Q	U	I	R	E	D	T	A	S	T	E	
Z		A		N		A		I		V		R		G
E	X	P	E	L		C	A	S	S	E	R	O	L	E
B		E		I		E		C		R		L		R
R	O	L	E	M	O	D	E	L		S	A	L	E	M
A		L		I				O				O		A
C	O	A	S	T	E	R		S	E	T	U	P	O	N
R				E		E		E		O				M
O	V	E	R	D	U	E		S	A	T	I	A	T	E
S		U				D				E		B		A
S	P	R	A	T		O	P	I	U	M	D	E	N	S
I		A		W		R		N		P		T		L
N	O	S	T	A	L	G	I	C		O	U	T	R	E
G		I		I		A		A		L		A		S
	D	A	R	N	I	N	G	N	E	E	D	L	E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	6	1	3	9	8	5	4
9	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3
8	1	3	5	4	2	9	6	7
1	2	4	9	6	5	7	3	8
6	8	9	7	2	3	5	4	1
3	5	7	8	1	4	2	9	6
5	6	8	3	9	1	4	7	2
4	3	1	2	5	7	6	8	9
7	9	2	4	8	6	3	1	5

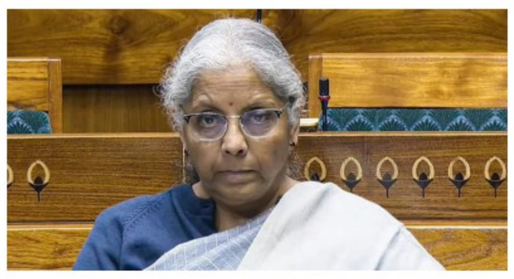
FAITH

Like fragrance and lustre

Lord Rama goes to Mithila, and weds Sita with His father's blessings. But why should the Supreme One marry? He does not need anyone's help for anything. He can create, protect and dissolve at will. He is defined as *nirapeksha*, the One who is not dependent on anyone. There is a rahasya tattva behind the Sita-Rama vivaha. Without this wedding, none of the events of the Ramayana would have happened. Ravana would not have been killed, and those tormented by Ravana would have continued to suffer. Besides, Lord Narayana earns the respect of everyone because of His consort, M.A. Venkatakrishnan said in a discourse.

The Acharyas give examples to help us understand how this can be so. The value of a flower depends on its fragrance. A single flower sometimes costs more than a bunch of other varieties of flowers. It is the fragrance that makes people seek the costly flower. Likewise, it is the Goddess who adds to His greatness. She is like the lustre of gems. Take the example of a diamond. There are different categories of diamonds, and depending upon cut, colour and clarity, the cost varies. A valuable diamond is brilliant, and is much sought after for this precise quality. A diamond which does not have the same characteristics will be priced cheaper. Goddess Mahalakshmi is like the brilliance of a valuable diamond. Just as a costly diamond is desired because of its properties, in the same way, the Lord is approached because She is with Him. It was because of the significance of Sita that Valmiki referred to his work as Sita's story. In the epic, She is the cause of the Rama-Ravana war, and the ultimate victory of the Lord.

INBRIEF



'Action against banks, NBFCs if gold auction norms violated'

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday told Lok Sabha action will be taken in case there are violations of well laid down processes for auctioning of gold by banks and non banking financial companies (NBFCs) when a borrower fails to pay gold loan. There is a process for giving enough number of notices to bank account holders. In the eventuality of a borrower not coming back to pay, the bank or NBFC will be forced to go for an auction, the Minister said. PTI

Due diligence on for IDBI Bank bidders: FinMin

The due diligence of qualified bidders for IDBI Bank, which is up for privatisation, is underway, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Monday. The government, along with LIC, is selling nearly 61% stake in IDBI Bank. This includes a 30.48% stake of the Government of India and 30.24% of LIC. In January 2023, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management received multiple Expressions of Interest (EoI) for buying stake in IDBI Bank. PTI

Apollo Hospitals Q3 net profit jumps 49% to ₹379 crore

Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd. reported a 49% jump in Q3 consolidated net profit to ₹379 crore compared with ₹254 crore a year earlier on high demand for health care services. The health care firm's revenue from operations grew 13% during the quarter to ₹5,527 crore. The Board of Directors declared an interim dividend of ₹9 per share (180% of face value of ₹5 per share) for the financial year ending March 31, 2025, on the paid up equity shares, out of the company's profits.

India stays stoic on Trump's aluminium, steel tariffs' gambit

India' steel exports to the U.S. are very miniscule so officials don't fear a major impact from the 25% import duties the U.S. unveiled on Monday

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

President Donald Trump's latest salvo of a 25% blanket tariff on all imports of steel and aluminium into the U.S. are the latest in a series of announcements and executive orders, just days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington, that have affected India. So far, the government has demurred from commenting on these moves or stuck to muted responses.

On Monday, Union Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik maintained a stoic stance on the new tariffs, stating India's steel exports to the U.S are miniscule, with just 95,000 tonnes exported to the U.S last year from India's total output of 145 million tonnes. "So, how does it matter if you are not able to export 95,000 tonnes?" he remarked at an event organised by Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He conceded Indian steel producers may face a problem if more countries put safeguards and restrictions on trade. When the U.S. had imposed tariffs on steel and aluminium in 2018, India had hit back by raising tariffs on 29 American products. Meanwhile, experts expect the latest tariff measures to boost U.S. demand for American steel and enable local producers to raise prices, but could confound the situation for other nations. "The U.S tariffs on steel will increase competition and exacerbate oversupply at other steel producing markets. Indian steel producers will face increased challenges in exporting their products. Over the past 12 months, high steel imports into India have already dampened prices and earnings of steel producers in India," said Hui Ting Sim, AVP at Moody's Ratings. The government has not yet responded to another decision, to "rescind or modify" the sanctions waiver received by India to develop a terminal in Iran's Chabahar port, which is a key part of New Delhi's regional and international trade ambitions. It has also made no comment on Mr. Trump's threats to impose 100% tariffs on BRICS countries if they try to sideline the use of the US dollar.

(With PTI inputs)

Nickel-and-dime: Only 95,000 tonnes of steel were exported to the U.S last year from India's total output of 145 million tonnes. PTI

Stocks tank, Gold soars; Rupee trips to almost 88/$ but recovers

Gold prices zoomed by ₹2,430 to hit a lifetime high of ₹88,500 per 10 grams following firm global trends and a weak rupee. Stock markets closed with losses for the fourth straight day on Monday with the benchmark Sensex falling 0.7% to close at 77,311.8 points as fresh U.S. tariff threats shook investor confidence, triggering a selloff in bluechip banking, metal and oil shares. The rupee plunged 45 paise and neared the 88 per U.S. dollar-level, before eventually closing 5 paise up at 87.45, after the central bank intervened. PTI

Southern States should benchmark themselves against the world, says CEA

Sanjay Vijayakumar
CHENNAI

Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran on Monday said it is about time that the Southern States benchmark themselves against the world and not just India, as the region is leading in many of the parameters when compared with the rest of the country.

Southern States contribute over 30% of India's GDP, with Tamil Nadu and Karnataka emerging as standout performers with high compounded annual growth rates in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), he said. The region outperforms with a 6.3% annual growth in real terms compared with a little over 5% for the rest of the country. Per capita GDP is rising at over 5%, compared with the rest of India per capita GDP growth of 4.2%, Mr. Nageswaran said.

The South also fares better in terms of Average Labour Force Participation Rate and accounts for a higher share of Gross Value Added (GVA) across sectors including real estate, agriculture and allied services, manufacturing, services among others. The Southern States account for 37.4% in terms of total number of factories, 37% in terms of factories in operation, 25.6% in fixed capital investments.

Speaking on South India's global economic competitiveness at the Confederation of Indian Industry's 'Mystic South - Global Linkages' summit, the CEA said that though 33% of persons engaged in the manufacturing sector are in South India, the region's output share is only 26%. "That kind of tells you there is scope for improvement in productivity because you have a higher share of workforce compared to share of outputs," he remarked.

Classifying skill levels into four buckets, starting from basic (level 1) to higher order professional (level 4) skills like medicine, engineering, geology, the CEA said Tamil Nadu and other Southern States in general have a very high level of Skill 2 which is more than basic but in terms of Skill level 3 (associate and professional skills) and the highest order skill sets, there is still a lot of room to catch up.

"If the 21st century is going to be about high value-added manufacturing and artificial intelligence, then we need to improve on skill [levels] 3 and 4," he added.

V. Anantha Nageswaran

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	77,312	-0.70
US Dollar	87.45	0.05
Gold	88,500	2.82
Brent oil	75.83	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2290.80	-48.00
Adani Ports	1144.20	-1.90
Apollo Hosp	6761.25	-29.30
Asian Paints	2270.15	-0.85
Axis Bank	1011.75	-12.35
Bajaj Auto	8880.55	-108.85
Bajaj Finserv	1792.40	-5.95
Bajaj Finance	8286.80	-187.45
Bharat Elec	273.45	-3.60
Bharti Airtel	1693.05	16.30
BPCL	259.90	-4.40
Britannia Ind	4909.65	39.15
Cipla	1458.85	-13.40
Coal India	370.50	-7.75
Dr Reddys Lab	1220.95	-19.45
Eicher Motors	5335.35	-37.20
Grasim Ind	2473.25	-14.35
HCL Tech	1733.85	8.20
HDFC Bank	1715.75	-17.00
HDFC Life	635.70	0.00
Hero MotoCorp	4196.45	-78.20
Hindalco	596.00	-11.40
Hind Unilever	2361.45	-2.40
ICICI Bank	1262.60	5.70
IndusInd Bank	1068.00	-11.10
Infosys	1880.30	-23.35
ITC	427.20	-3.65
JSW Steel	959.15	-21.60
Kotak Bank	1960.15	30.90
L&T	3328.65	-8.25
M&M	3137.25	-61.20
Maruti Suzuki	12900.75	-148.75
NestleIndia	2221.05	-4.05
NTPC	310.50	-6.45
ONGC	242.45	-6.45
PowerGrid Corp	268.70	-9.45
Reliance Ind	1253.65	-13.05
SBI Life	1448.20	-22.75
State Bank	736.80	-0.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	560.80	1.25
Sun Pharma	1732.10	-17.70
TataConsumerProduct	1027.50	6.30
Tata Motors	696.00	-10.75
Tata Steel	134.04	-4.27
TCS	4036.95	7.55
Tech Mahindra	1699.05	6.95
Titan	3327.45	-97.35
Trent Ltd.	5196.75	-257.65
UltraTech Cement	11532.30	-108.30
Wipro	319.05	1.05

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 10

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	87.28	87.60
Euro	90.16	90.49
British Pound	108.29	108.69
Japanese Yen (100)	57.35	57.56
Chinese Yuan	11.95	11.99
Swiss Franc	95.93	96.28
Singapore Dollar	64.48	64.73
Canadian Dollar	60.87	61.10
Malaysian Ringitt	19.51	19.62
Australian Dollar	54.80	55.00

Source:Indian Bank

RBI followed a highly unfortunate exchange policy: Arvind Subramanian

Sanjay Vijayakumar
CHENNAI

Former Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) Arvind Subramanian on Monday said while a part of India's slowdown was cyclical, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s policies too had contributed to it.

"For about two-and-a-half years till January 2025, RBI followed a highly unfortunate exchange rate policy. It was very costly for the economy. And sadly it went unnoticed below the radar screen," he said at a panel discussion on the State of Economy and Union Budget 2025-2026 organised by the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) in association with Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.

'Damage to economy'

"The policies have inflicted a lot of damage to the economy and we need much more discussion on that. We need much more discussions on how we can have guardrails against the eminent institution which can follow inappropriate policies and accountability mechanisms which should be in place. Hopefully the policy has changed in the right direction," Mr. Subramanian said.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Office of the Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560020.

No. BDA/EE(ID)/Auction(Veh)/141/2024-25 Dated: 07.02.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER CUM PUBLIC AUCTION

Sealed Tender cum public auction are invited for the following scrap vehicles by the Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bangalore-560020, on behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bangalore, on as is where is basis.

The list of scrap vehicles proposed for Tender cum Public Auction are detailed below

Sl.No.	Vehicle Reg.No.	Type of vehicle	Model of vehicle
1	KA-04 MC 7296	Tata Indigo	2006
2	KA-04 MJ 777	Tata Indigo	2003
3	KA-04 MC 7291	Tata Indigo	2006
4	KA-04 MC 7293	Tata Indigo	2006
5	KA-04 MB 925	Tata Indigo	2004
6	KA-04 MG 5949	Chevrolet Captiva	2008
7	KA-04 Z 9329	Tempo Traveller	2002

Cost of Tender form in Rs. 1000/-

Following shall be the calendar of events for Tender cum Public Auction: (1) Issue of blank tender form: **12-02-2025 to 18-02-2025, up to 4:00 PM. (2)** Last date and time for receipt of tender form: **19-02- 2025. before 12.00 PM (3)** Date of auction: **20-02-2025 at 11.30 AM (4)** Place of auction: **Bangalore Development Authority, T.Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bangalore-560020. More details can be had from the above office during office hours.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Infrastructure Division,
Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore

ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA
(Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Department)
Office of the Project Director, State Program Management Unit (SPMU), #1/1, 2nd Floor, K.S.F.C Bhavan, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No: ABHY/SPMU/PROC/21/2024-25 Date: 07.02.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through kpp portal)

SPMU, Atal Bhujal Yojana, invited tender from eligible bidders through kpp Portal for **"Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Digital dashboard and dissemination systems in Atal Bhujal Yojana, Karnataka"**

The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The tender document can be downloaded through "kpp portal" from 10.02.2025 onwards and last date for receipt of tender is on or **before 17.02.2025, 17.00 hrs.**

Further details can be obtained from the **office hours from 10:00 hrs to 17:30 hrs.**

Sd/-
Tender Inviting Authority,
SPMU, Atal Jal, Karnataka

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO4936/24-25

राजस्थान स्टेट सीड्स कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
तृतीय मंजिल, पंत कृषि भवन, जनपथ - जयपुर CIN : U75132RJ1978SGC001781, Website- www.rajseeds.org
Email - rajseedsproc @gmail.com Phone No. (0141) 5106516, 2227514

क्रमांक :- एफ 3 ( )/विधायन/2025-2026/24205 दिनांक :- 06/02/2025

गोदाम किराये पर देने हेतु सूचना

बीज निगम अपने खाली गोदामों को उपलब्धता के अनुसार 1 माह से 12 माह के लिए किराये पर उपलब्ध करवाना चाहता है। जिनकी सूची निगम की **www.rajseeds.org** पर उपलब्ध है। कृपया इच्छुक व्यक्ति गोदाम किराये पर लेने हेतु निगम के प्रधान कार्यालय जयपुर में अथवा कोटा, झालावाड,चित्तौड़गढ़, भरतपुर,अलवर, हिण्डौन एवं मंडौर इकाईयों पर डाक से या व्यक्तिशः / सम्बन्धित इकाई प्रभारी से सम्पर्क कर आवश्यकतानुसार उपलब्ध स्थान को किराये पर रिजर्व करा सकता है जिसकी सम्पूर्ण जानकारी इकाईयों के नाम पते एवं शर्तें निगम की वेबसाईट **www.rajseeds.org** पर उपलब्ध है।

राज.संवाद/सी/24/11475 **प्रबन्ध निदेशक**

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003, Telangana, India CIN:U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

Dept-HOD, HR& Admin GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of:

1	Tender Enquiry No. 012/GATP/HRADMIN/50007162 dated 10/02/2025 **"TENDER FOR GVKPGSL EMPLOYEES INSURANCE"** at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications.

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 10/02/2025 from 17:00 Hrs onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
GATP 04/25 **76155/12/3891/2023/41535**

PUNJAB STATE GRAINS PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (PUNGRAIN)
ANAAJ BHAWAN, SECTOR 39-C, CHANDIGARH

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Bids are invited under two-bid system i.e. 'Technical Bid' and 'Financial Bid' from bidders for the purchase of 46000 Low Density Polyethylene Covers (LDPE Covers) for storage of wheat during RMS 2025-26 on behalf of all State Procuring Agencies (Pungrain, PSWC, Punsup and Markfed) in the State of Punjab. **For details log onto:** https://eproc.punjab.gov.in or http://foodsuppb.gov.in

Bid Submission Start Date and Time: 02:00 PM on 10.02.2025
Bid Submission Last Date and Time: Till 02:00 PM on 12.03.2025.
Date and time of Opening Technical Bid: At 02:30 PM on 12.03.2025.
Pre-bid Conference: On 17.02.2025 at 11:00 AM in the Committee room, Anaaj Bhawan, Sector 39-C, Chandigarh.
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender shall be published on the above websites only.

0/12/292/2023/41545 **Managing Director, PUNGRAIN**

Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dharwad Division, Dharwad-580008
Phone : 0836- 2447092 Email : dcf_dwd@yahoo.co.in
No.A1/ACT/CR-49/2024-25 Date : 07.02.2025

BRIEF SALE NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified for the general information of the public that the Sandal wood and Sandal oil stored at **Central Sandal Depot, Dharwad – 580008** will be sold by e-tender-cum-auction mode through MSTC Ltd., on the online platform "**www.mstcecommerce.com**". The sale conducting authority is Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dharwad Division, Dharwad. The e-tender-cum auction is subject to terms and conditions uploaded on the website www.mstcecommerce.com. by e-tender-cum auction **Notice No: MSTC/BLR/Karnataka Forest Department/1/Forest Complex/24-25/54432**
(1) Date of e-tender-cum-auction : **05th March 2025** (2) Mode : **Online-www.mstcecommerce.com** (3) Time : 03:00 PM to 05:00 PM (4) Quantity of Material : Approximately **121.668816 MT Sandal wood of Different kinds and 0.092882 MT Sandal Oil.** (5) Approximate value : Approximately Above Rs. **3.00** Crores (6) Inspection of logs by the bidders : **21-02-2025** to **22-02-2025** (Both dates inclusive) 10:30 AM and 04:00 PM **(**On working Days) at Central Sandal Depot, Dharwad – 580008. (7) Pre Bid Meeting : **22-02-2025** at 04:00 PM in the Chamber's of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dharwad Division, Dharwad.
Conditions : (1) Interested bidders should get themselves Registered with MSTC well in advance. (2) Intended bidders are advised to inspect the material to their satisfaction. (3) The Quantity notified adjacent to each class kept for sale is approximate. (4) Every Registered bidder shall pay an Earnest money deposit (EMD) of Rs. **10,00,000/-** (Ten Lakh only) for all lots/ or any lot. (5) The black listed bidders, defaulters, Minors, insolvent persons will not be Permitted to participate in the sale. (6) Detailed Sale Conditions to be downloaded from **www.mstcecommerce.com**. E-Auction No : **MSTC/BLR/Karnataka Forest Department/1/Forest Complex/24-25/54432 Sale Conducting Officer,**

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forests
DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/946/2024-25 **Dharwad Division Dharwad**

Department of School Education
(PRE-UNIVERSITY)
18TH CROSS, MALLESWARAM, BENGALURU-560012

No: DPUE-EST10DEPT/20/2024-PLCY-ESTTWO-1617004 Date:10.02.2025

SHORT - TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION (PRE UNIVERSITY) IS INVITING E-TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR FOLLOWING IT HARDWARE

SL NO	EXPLANATION	TENDER NUMBER AND DATE AND TIME
01	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ALL IN ONE COMPUTERS FOR 74 ADARSHA GOVT PU COLLEGES (10 PER COLLEGE)	PUED/2024-25/ IND0034
02	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ALL IN ONE COMPUTERS FOR 100 GOVT PU COLLEGES (12 PER COLLEGE)	PUED/2024-25/ IND0036
03	Tender Commencement Date	**07-02-2025 at 3.00 PM**
04	Date of Pre-Bid meeting	**12-02-2025 at 11.30 AM**
05	Last Date and Time for submission of Tenders	**21-02-2025 at 05.30 PM**
06	Time and Date of Opening Technical Bids	**24-02-2025 at 11.30 AM**
07	Time and Date of Opening Commercial Bids	**27-02-2025 at 11.30 AM**

The tender details are available in the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For more details contact E-procurement portal.

Sd/-Director, Department of School Education (Pre University)

Government of Karnatak
Zilla Panchayat Haveri
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE OFFICER, HAVERI
#21, 'B' Block District Administration Building, Devagiri.
Email : dhohaveri@gmail.com Ph: 08375-249049,
Fax : 08375-249009:9449843054.

Ref.: DHFWO/Sup/68/2024-25 Date : 07-02-2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub.: Inviting Tender for Engagement of Manpower (Staff Nurse, DEO's & Group-D's) on outsource contract basis through E-Procurement.

Ref.: Approval note from Chief Executive Officer, ZP Haveri dated : 06-02-2025

Sealed tender in two bid system are invited for engagement of agencies from Registered/Well established Manpower service providers for providing contractual manpower (outsource) viz. Staff Nurses, Data Entry Operators & Group-D's for the year 2025-26 to work in various Health centers of Haveri district. The manual bids shall not be accepted.

2. The estimated cost for one year will be about 183 lakhs (One Hundred Eighty three Lakhs). The amount of EMD security deposit is Rs. 4.58 Lakhs (Four Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand).

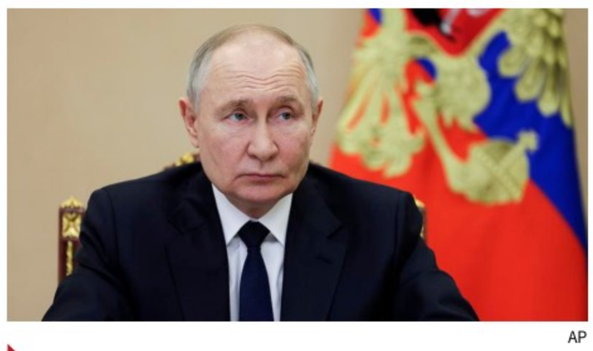
3. Tender Document can be downloaded from (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) as per schedule given here under.

Sl. No.	Attributes	Schedule
1	Tender Publish Date	11/02/2025
2	Tender Value (Approximate)	Rs. 183.00 Lakhs
3	Bid Submission End Date	25-2-2025 Time 4:00 PM
4	Technical Bid Opening date	27-2-2025 Time 11:00 AM
5	Financial Bid Opening Date	Will be intimate later
6	Earnest Money Deposit to be submitted (EMD)	Rs. 4.58 lakhs (Four Lakhs Fifty Eighty thousand only)
7	Prebid Meeting Date / Place and Liasion Officer / address	Date : 15-02-2025 at 11.00 am **District Health & Family Welfare Officer, Haveri Ph.: 08375-249049, 249066**

Sd/- **District Health & Family Welfare Officer, Haveri**

MOSCOW

Extending the last nuclear arms pact with U.S. doubtful, says Russia



AP

Russia warned that the outlook for extending the last remaining pillar of nuclear arms control between Moscow and Washington did not look promising and that the situation appeared to be deadlocked. The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or New START, is due to run out in a year — on February 5, 2026. REUTERS

BEIJING

Beijing slams Trump-Ishiba's joint remark regarding South China Sea

AP

Beijing said on Monday that a joint statement by the United States and Japan condemning its "provocative activities" in the contested South China Sea "attacks and smears" China. U.S. President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba made the remarks on China after the two leaders met in Washington. AFP

JERUSALEM

Israeli police raid Palestinian bookshop in east Jerusalem

REUTERS

Israeli police raided a long-established Palestinian-owned bookstore in east Jerusalem, detaining the owners and confiscating books about the decades-long conflict. The police said the books incited violence. The Educational Bookshop, established over 40 years ago, is a hub of intellectual life in east Jerusalem. AP

DHAKA

Yunus assures BNP to hold polls by December in Bangladesh

REUTERS

Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus assured former PM Khaleda Zia's party that his interim government is preparing to hold general elections by December, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's top leader said. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir spoke to journalists after a meeting with Mr. Yunus. PTI

Hamas to stop release of prisoners, accuses Israel of ceasefire violations

Hamas says Israeli violations include delaying Palestinians from returning to northern Gaza, targeting Palestinians with shelling, and stopping aid from entering the strip; so far, 16 hostages have returned to Israel, apart from five Thai hostages

Reuters
JERUSALEM

Hamas on Monday announced it would stop releasing Israeli hostages until further notice over what the Palestinian militant group said were Israeli violations of the ceasefire agreement.

The unexpected announcement comes amid growing doubts over an already fragile ceasefire even as families of the Israeli hostages urge the government to stick to the deal and Gazans try to start rebuilding their lives in the shattered enclave.

Dystopian world: People walk along a road near the heavily-damaged buildings in the north of Gaza City on Monday. AFP

Hamas was to release some Israeli hostages on Saturday in exchange for Palestinian prisoners and other Palestinians held in Israeli detention as had happened over the past three weeks.

Hamas military wing spokesperson Abu Ubaida said Israeli violations had included Israel delaying Palestinians from returning to northern Gaza, targeting Palestinians with Israeli shelling and gunfire and stopping aid from entering the strip.

Stray incidents

The ceasefire has largely held since it began January 19, although there have been some incidents where Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces. The amount of humanitarian aid into Gaza has increased since the ceasefire, aid agencies say.

But Hamas' Ubaida said the next scheduled release of hostages on Saturday would be postponed until Israel complies with the ceasefire agreement and "compensates for the past weeks".

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said Hamas' announcement violated the ceasefire deal and that he had instructed the military to prepare at the highest level of readiness in Gaza and to defend Israeli communities.

So far, 16 of the 33 hostages to be released in the first 42-day phase of the deal have come home, as well as five Thai hostages who were returned in an unscheduled release.

China lays down conditions for Dalai Lama's Tibet return

Reuters
BEIJING/NEW DELHI

China hopes the Dalai Lama can "return to the right path," and is open to discussions about his future as long as certain conditions are met, Beijing said on Monday, a proposal rejected by the Tibetan parliament-in-exile in India.

The exiled leader of Tibetan Buddhism, who turns 90 in July, fled Tibet in 1959 for India after a failed uprising against Chinese rule but has expressed a desire to return before he dies.

China is open to talks about the future of the Nobel laureate as long as he abandons his position of splitting the "motherland," a Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Guo Jiakun, told a regular press conference. Mr. Guo was responding to a request for comment on the death of the spiritual leader's elder brother Gyalo Thondup.

Long-running dispute: The exiled leader of Tibetan Buddhism, who turns 90 in July, had fled Tibet in 1959 for India. ANI

The Dalai Lama needs to openly recognise that Tibet and Taiwan are inalienable parts of China, whose sole legal government is that of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Guo said, using the country's official name.

But the deputy speaker of the Tibetan parliament-in-exile, Dolma Tsering Teykhang, rejected the preconditions.

Trump asks Treasury Department to stop minting new pennies

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump says he has directed the Treasury Department to stop minting new pennies, citing the rising cost of producing the one-cent coin.

"For far too long the United States has minted pennies which literally cost us more than 2 cents. This is so wasteful!" Mr. Trump wrote in a post on his Truth Social site.

Mr. Trump had not discussed his desire to eliminate the penny during his campaign. But Elon Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency raised the prospect last month highlighting the penny's cost.

The U.S. President has cited the rising cost of producing the one-cent coin behind the decision

The U.S. Mint reported losing $85.3 million in the 2024 fiscal year that ended in September on the nearly 3.2 billion pennies it produced. Every penny cost nearly $0.037 – up from $0.031 the year before.

Russia plays hardball on Ukraine truce plan as Trump talks of contacting Putin

Reuters
MOSCOW

Russia's point man for relations with the United States said on Monday that all of President Vladimir Putin's conditions must be met in full before the war in Ukraine can end, suggesting Moscow is playing hardball with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Asked whether he had had a conversation with Mr. Putin since he became President on January 20 or before, Mr. Trump told reporters on Air Force One: "I have had it. Let's just say I have had it."

The Kremlin refused to either confirm or deny the contact.

Protracted war: Russia says President Vladimir Putin's demands remained the opening bid at the outset of the negotiations. AFP

But Moscow swiftly underscored that its maximalist demands – as set out by Mr. Putin in June last year – remained the opening bid at the outset of the negotiations.

The "political solution as we envisage it cannot be achieved otherwise than through the full implementation of what was pronounced by President Putin when he spoke to the Russian Foreign Ministry in June," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told a Moscow news briefing in English.

Putin's demands

In Mr. Putin's June 14 speech to the Foreign Ministry, he set out his terms: Ukraine must drop its NATO ambitions and withdraw its troops from the entirety of the territory of four Ukrainian regions claimed and mostly controlled by Russia.

Kyiv, which wants to join NATO and wrest back control of lost territory if it can, said at the time that said such conditions would be tantamount to surrender.

Trump is aiming at bringing Iran 'to its knees': Pezeshkian

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's President accused his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump on Monday of seeking to bring the Islamic republic "to its knees" as the country marked the 1979 revolution that toppled the shah.

This year's celebrations carry additional weight following Mr. Trump's return to the White House.

"Trump says, 'we want to talk', and... [then] he signs in a memorandum all the conspiracies to bring our revolution to its knees," Mr. Pezeshkian told the crowd, referring to Mr. Trump's reinstatement of sanctions against Tehran earlier this month.

Masoud Pezeshkian

"We are not looking for war," he said, while adding that Iran "will never bow to foreigners".

Sport

Had a chance to reflect on India's sporting culture: Bindra

Sports Bureau

Olympic gold medal-winning shooter Abhinav Bindra hailed the power of sport towards the exercise of nation building ahead of the seventh annual *Sportstar* Aces Awards.

A member of the jury panel for the honours, Bindra acknowledged a widening of his own perspective in his assessment of the impact athletes have on society.

"When I was an athlete and competing for over two decades, I saw sport from a very narrow perspective. It was about getting the job done and winning. That was my world. Now that I've exited my investment in sports, I look at things more dispassionately. We're at a time in our nation's history where we're either consuming or playing sport. Both numbers are at historic highs. As a jury then, we always have to look at decisions from this perspective. The exercise this time gave us a chance to recognise and reflect on what India's sporting culture looks like." The 42-year-old focused on the age-old debate on India's population-medals correlation.

"I thought our athletes did well at the Paris Games. These were our most competitive performances ever but that translated into only six medals, which is disappointing to many people, including myself. The important question we all have to ask ourselves is, yes, we are a population of 1.4 billion. But what is the playing population of this country?

Bindra.

"When you dig deep into the playing population of the country and what the number of athletes in this country is into organised training, the number is quite little. Against that background, six medals are not bad. That perspective is required." Bindra credited the para sports movement in India and hopes the power of success in the ecosystem is harnessed for societal change.

"I think the great decisions that were made to mainstream para sport, to put para sport on the same pedestal as able-bodied sport, was a positive move. That brought us 29 medals at the Paralympics. India is potentially bidding to host an Olympic Games, but that would also mean hosting the Paralympic Games. How can we make this whole country more accessible in the backdrop of that aspiration? I think that would be the next step."

The 2025 *Sportstar* Aces Awards will be held in Mumbai on February 14.

Magileto wins Kakatiya Million

HYDERABAD: Trainer Aman Altaf Hussain's Magileto, ridden by P. Trevor, won the Kakatiya Million, the feature event of Monday's (Feb. 10) races here. The winner is owned by Mr. Solomon F. Sopher, Miss. Jessy D'Cunha, Miss. Veera D'Souza, Mr. Ashok Ranpise & Mr. Anil Saraf. Trainer R.H. Sequeira stole the limelight with three winners on the day.

1. RISING STAR PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): RACING RULER (P. Trevor) 1, N R I High Power (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Calabasas (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Sharanga (Abhay) 4. 1/2, 1/2 and 3-1/2. 1m 13.70s. ₹14 (w), 10, 18 and 16 (p). SHP: 67, THP: 52, SHW: 10 and 148, FP: 195, Q: 112, Tanala: 779. Favourite: Racing Ruler. Owners: Mr. Teja Gollapudi, Mr. Bollineni Krishnaiah, Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Seshadri Reddy Pochana, Mr. Mukund Kakani, Mr. Teegala Vijender Reddy, Mr. Teegala Sumant Reddy & Mr. Hannath Reddy Teegala. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

2. SIR BRUCE PLATE (1,600M): ANTIDOTE (Akshay Kumar) 1, City Cruise (Md. Ekram) 2, Caraxes (Mukesh) 3 and N R I Skypower (Santosh Raj) 4. 2-1/2, Neck and 1-1/2. 1m 40.92s. ₹16 (w), 13, 20 and 12 (p). SHP: 81, THP: 43, SHW: 13 and 34, FP: 133, Q: 115, Tanala: 314. Favourite: Antidote. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

3. RISING STAR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): N R I TRIPLE POWER (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Mahrosh (H.M. Akshay) 2, Royal Warrior (P. Sai K) 3 and Gusto's Baby (Afroz K) 4. 3-1/2, 3/4 and 3/4. 1m 13.97s. ₹175 (w), 27, 69 and 13 (p). SHP: 220, THP: 39, SHW: 32 and 153, FP: 17,390, Q: 5,947, Tanala: 60,669 (c/o). Favourite: Emerald Touch. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: D. Netto.
NOTE: In this race Yuvraj (B.R. Kumar up) jumped out awkwardly and dislodged his rider. Kumar escaped unhurt.

4. RAJA BAHADUR VENKATARAMA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II) (1,600M): REIGNING BEAUTY (Shivansh) 1, D. Minchu (Deepak) 2, Dali's Destiny (Trevor) 3 and Strauss (B. Nikhil) 4. Not run: Barbet. Neck, Neck and 1-1/4. 1m 40.69s. ₹153 (w), 25, 15 and 10 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 67, SHW: 33 and 25, FP: 846, Q: 229, Tanala: 2,184. Favourite: Dali's Destiny. Owner & Trainer: Mr. L. D' Silva.

5. MIRZA ZUNNUR AHMED MEMORIAL CUP (1,800M): STAR OF NIGHT (Antony Raj S) 1, Just Incredible (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, China Town (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Sugar (Akshay K) 4. 5-3/4, Nose and 1/2. 1m 52.16s. ₹14 (w), 14, 30 and 25 (p). SHP: 78, THP: 71, SHW: 15 and 51, FP: 83, Q: 96, Tanala: 701. Favourite: Star Of Night. Owner: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

6. KAKATIYA MILLION (1,200M): MAGILETO (P. Trevor) 1, Malaala (Mukesh) 2, O Hansini (Antony Raj) 3 and Lashka (Ashad Asbar) 4. 1, 2 and 1-1/4. 1m 10.54s. ₹17 (w), 11 and 23 (p). SHP: 55, THP: 31, SHW: 10 and 45, FP: 120, Q: 80, Tanala: 279. Favourite: Magileto. Owners: Mr. Solomon F. Sopher, Miss Jessy D'Cunha, Miss Veera D'Souza, Mr. Ashok Ranpise & Mr. Anil Saraf. Trainer: Aman Altaf Hussain.

7. RAJA BAHADUR VENKATARAMA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I) (1,600M): SILVER ACT (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Decoy (Akshay K) 2, Golden Gazelle (Trevor) 3 and Lucky Zone (Surya Prakash) 4. Not run: Livermore and Hurricane Bay. Neck, 2 and 1.1m 39.04s. ₹32 (w), 10, 12 and 10 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 39, SHW: 15 and 13, FP: 66, Q: 37, Tanala: 116. Favourite: Decoy. Owners: Mr. Hari Sharan Devgan, Mr. Nirmal Singh & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Magan Singh.

8. ABERADER PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100M): SHOOTING STAR (Akshay Kumar) 1, Smart Boy (B.R. Kumar) 2, Classy Dame (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Golden Unicorn (Rafique Sk.) 4. Not run: Morning Mist and Hoping Star. 2-1/2, 1 and Head. 1m 7.10s. ₹15 (w), 10, 27 and 16 (p). SHP: 54, THP: 46, SHW: 12 and 34, FP: 79, Q: 74, Tanala: 361. Favourite: Shooting Star. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

Jkt: 70%: ₹5,899 (118 tkts.), 30%: 1,280 (233 tkts.). Mini Jkt: (i) 55,758 (4 tkts.), (ii) 153 (930 tkts.). Treble: (i) 1,670 (19 tkts.), (ii) 23,549 (one tkt), (iii) 77 (585 tkts.).

CMYK
M BG-BGE

DYNAMIC AND AGGRESSIVE

Rohit showed the modern way of playing 50-over cricket: Buttler

VIJAY SONEJI

Rohit Sharma played a brilliant innings, how he can go up and down the gears and absorb pressure, put a lot of pressure back. He showed in this day and age, in the modern sort of way of playing 50-over cricket, it's very dynamic, aggressive — England skipper Jos Buttler after India's victory in Cuttack on Sunday.

TERRIFIC CHASE

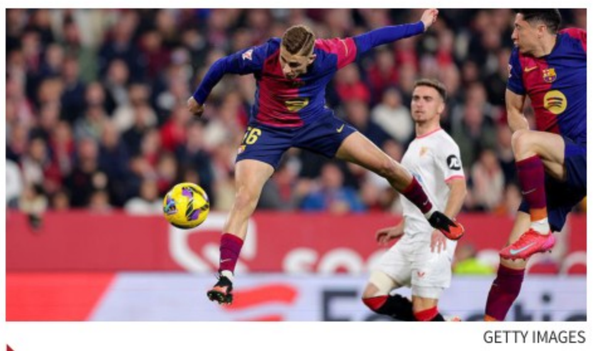
Williamson's century eclipses Breetzke's as NZ enters final

AFP

Kane Williamson hit a century to take New Zealand into the tri-series final with a six-wicket win over South Africa in Lahore on Monday. **The scores**: South Africa 304/6 in 50 overs (Breetzke 150, Mulder 64) lost to New Zealand 308/4 in 48.4 overs (Williamson 133 n.o., Conway 97). **Toss**: New Zealand. **PoM**: Williamson.

CLOSING IN

Barca moves closer to the top two with a thumping win at Sevilla



GETTY IMAGES

Barcelona cut the gap on LaLiga's top two with an entertaining 4-1 win over Sevilla on Sunday, despite playing out the final half-hour with 10 men after Fermin Lopez's red card. Serie A leader Napoli failed to make the most of a stumble by title rival Inter Milan as it was held to a 1-1 draw by Udinese.

ALL-COURT EXCELLENCE

Alcaraz beats de Minaur, claims his first indoor title

Carlos Alcaraz secured his first indoor title by beating Alex de Minaur in the final of the Rotterdam Open in Rotterdam on Sunday. The top-seeded Alcaraz won 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 to become the first Spanish champion in the tournament's 52-year history. "This week has been a really good week," Alcaraz said.

Shreyas Iyer — the middle-order metronome who makes India tick

The batter has underscored his value for the team with crucial knocks in the ongoing ODI series; mentor Amre says he is happy to see the Mumbai player update his approach to the challenges of the modern game

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Y.B. Sarangi
CUTTACK

When Shreyas Iyer came into the then Delhi Daredevils side in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 10 years ago, he had just spent a season in domestic cricket and was considered a bundle of talent.

Even as a 20-year-old rookie, his confidence off the field during interactions with media persons was unmissable. He performed with the same self-belief in his first season of the IPL, gathering 439 runs, including four fifties, at a 128-plus strike rate.

He went from strength to strength to assert himself as a premier white ball batter while overcoming injuries and lean patches.

Shreyas eventually earned India caps in all three formats and impressed with his leadership skills for the Delhi and Kolkata franchises. He led the latter to the IPL title last year and is all set to captain Punjab Kings in the upcoming season.

In international cricket, Shreyas has done his best in the 50-overs format. He has scored 2,524 runs from 64 matches with five centuries and 19 half-centuries, at an average of 47.62.

The Mumbai batter, who ambles around in the middle with a typical swag of his own while plundering runs or playing as per the situation, was an integral part of India's home campaign in the 2023 World Cup.

So, when Shreyas revealed that he did not expect to play the first ODI against England in Nagpur and came in after Virat Kohli pulled out due to a knee issue, it surprised many. He scored a crucial half-century in a winning cause.

At Cuttack, when India needed some partnerships after the fall of Kohli, the Mumbai batter joined hands with skipper Rohit Sharma for a 70-run stand and then with Axar Patel for a 38-run association.

Unfortunately, a mix-up with Axar and a resultant run out brought about an end to his innings when he was just six runs away from another deserving fifty and India 47 off the target.

Having highlighted his worth at the key No. 4 spot in the middle-order, the 30-year-old Shreyas, who can construct an innings well and accelerate to the finish line as per the need, is likely to be a key component of India's batting order in its Champions Trophy campaign.

His athleticism and fielding skills will add value.

"I am happy he has updated his approach to the challenges of the modern game. He has learned from experience and is determined to work towards excellence in red-ball cricket, too," said Shreyas' mentor Pravin Amre.

For someone who is always prepared to take his chances, the stylish batter should relish the opportunities and challenges he may face in Dubai.

Pulling his weight: Shreyas has made vital contributions in ODIs. K.R. DEEPAK

Playing domestic cricket helped me, says Jadeja

Y.B. Sarangi
CUTTACK

Ravindra Jadeja is pleased that India's spin department has been doing well in the build-up to the Champions Trophy.

The spin quintet – Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakaravarthy and Washington Sundar – have provided options and also variety to captain Rohit Sharma in the ongoing ODI series against England. While four have got some game time, Washington may get an opportunity in the final ODI in Ahmedabad.

So far, the spinners have done well by providing crucial breakthroughs and containing the England batters in the middle overs. Depending on the team's requirement in Dubai, the team management may consider Varun as a back-up to the Champions Trophy squad.

"It's good considering where we are going to play, it is likely to be hot, so we'll only know about the pitch once we get there. Our spin department is doing well. In the middle overs, we need to either take wickets or restrict runs and not give away easy boundaries because five fielders remain inside the circle. Both our fast bowlers and spinners are performing well together as a bowling unit in every match, which is a good sign," said Jadeja after India's four-wicket win, which helped seal the series, at the Barabati Stadium here on Sunday.

Quantity and quality: Jadeja says bowling more overs has seen him maintain his rhythm. K.R. DEEPAK

He added playing domestic cricket prior to the ODI series helped him.

"It feels really good (to play ODIs again), especially after almost two years – since the World Cup. Coming back into this format requires quick adaptation, but I believe the domestic matches I played helped me a lot. In those matches, I bowled more than 30 overs, which helped me maintain my rhythm.

"Like Tests, I tried to maintain a similar line and length in ODIs. The rhythm remained intact because the break wasn't too long," said Jadeja, looking forward to a fruitful outing in the ICC event.

Karan tumbles out; Geerts survives

Geerts. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Skatov. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Eighth seed Timofei Skatov proved a hard nut to crack for Karan Singh as the Kazakh ran away a 6-4, 6-0 victor in the first round of the *Dafa News* $100,000 Delhi Open Challenger tennis tournament at DLTA Complex on Monday.

The experience and expertise of the 24-year-old Kazakh, who was ranked a career-best 123 in 2023, was evident in the way he studied the Indian's game and also the slow conditions to plot his way forward with crisp execution.

The 21-year-old Karan, ranked a modest 500, did have the big game as he showed in some entertaining rallies and a few classy winners, but not the consistency to make a better fight of it. Karan conceded far too much ground, especially, early in the first set and that proved decisive in setting the tempo for the contest.

Earlier, Aryan Shah fought hard in second and final qualifying round before being beaten 6-2, 2-6, 6-1 by seventh seed Masamichi Imamura of Japan.

There was brightened hope for the Indian camp as S. Mukund's opponent, fourth-seeded Lloyd Harris of South Africa, withdrew and was replaced by lucky-loser Sascha Wayenburg of France.

The results:

First round: Michael Geerts (Bel) bt Zsombor Piros (Hun) 6-3, 7-5; Timofey Skatov (Kaz) bt Karan Singh 6-4, 6-0.

Dev breaks the pole vault National record; Tajinderpal takes shot put gold

NATIONAL GAMES

Stan Rayan
DEHRADUN

Dev Kumar Meena switched from the quarter-mile to pole vault just three years ago and he now appears to be in a hurry to make up for the lost time.

The 19-year-old from Madhya Pradesh broke the pole vault National record, raising it by one centimetre to 5.32m, while retaining the gold in the National Games athletics at the Ganga Stadium here on Monday. It was the first National record in athletics in these Games here and, in the process, Dev also improved his personal best by 12cm.

After sailing over Tamil Nadu's S. Siva's National record, Dev became a bit ambitious. He went for 5.40m next but kept kicking the bar down every time.

"It was my new coach Angel Garcia Esteban's decision to go for 5.40," said Dev. Ghyanshyam Yadav been coaching Dev for the last few years at the MP athletics academy and Garcia Esteban, a former Cuban National champion, will begin working on the youngster soon.

Meanwhile, Asian and Asian Games champion Tajinderpal Singh Toor comfortably won the men's shot put gold with an opening effort of 19.74m.

Extra special: Niharika won the women's triple jump, her maiden gold in a National competition. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Soaring: Dev set the first athletics record of this edition while retaining his National Games gold. RITU RAJ KONWAR

"I've recovered from the injury which had been troubling me and I will begin focusing on the Worlds this year," said the Olympian, a former Asian record holder, who holds the National record with 21.77m.

There was a big surprise in the women's hammer throw where UP's Anuksha Yadav improved her personal best by more than six metres as she broke the Games record and beat record-holder Tanya Chaudhary for the gold. And in women's triple jump, Punjab's Niharika Vashisht won her maiden gold in a National competition shocking defending champion N.V. Sheena and another leading name, Poorva Sawant.

The results:

Men: 3000m steeple chase: 1. Sumit Kumar (Ser) 8:46.26s, 2. Rohit Verma (Ser) 8:49.01, 3. Shankar Lal Swami (Har) 8:49.39. **4x400m relay:** 1. Tamil Nadu (3:10.61s), 2. Uttarakhand (3:10.85), 3. Services (3:10.90). **Pole vault:** 1. Dev Kumar Meena (Pun) 5.32m National record, OR 5.31 by TN's S. Siva, 2022; 2. G. Reegan (TN) 5.00, 3. Kuldeep Kumar (UP) 5.00. **Shot put:** 1. Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Pun) 19.74m, 2. Samardeep Singh Gill (MP) 19.38, 3. Prabhkirpal Singh (Pun) 19.04. **Women: 3000m steeple chase:** 1. Ankita (Utk) 9:53.63s, 2. Manju Yadav (MP) 10:15.70, 3. Rebi Paul (UP) 10:37.15. **4x400m relay:** 1. Punjab (3:41.77s), 2. Karnataka (3:43.89), 3. Haryana (3:45.83). **Triple jump:** 1. Niharika Vashisht (Pun) 13.37m, 2. N.V. Sheena (Ker) 13.19, 3. Sandra Babu (Ker) 13.12. **Hammer throw:** 1. Anuksha Yadav (UP) 62.89m MR, OR Tanya Chaudhary's 62.47m 2023; 2. Tanya Chaudhary (UP) 59.74, 3. Nandni (UP) 58.89.

Manu finishes on top in qualification, but Simranpreet wins

On the podium: Esha, Simranpreet and Manu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Manu Bhaker topped qualification in the 25m sports pistol in the National shooting trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Monday.

Manu shot 587 to be two points ahead of the eventual winner of the final, Simranpreet Kaur Brar. In the title clash, Simranpreet beat Esha Singh 36-35. Esha compensated for her low score of 578 with a sterling performance in the final as Manu was pushed to third.

Arshdeep Kaur, Abhidnya Patil, Annu Raj Singh, T.S. Divya and world record holder Rhythm Sangwan were the others to make the final. Multiple World Cup gold medallist Rahi Sarnobat shot 575 and was placed 10th.

World Champion Rudrankksh Patil continued to strengthen his position by topping both qualification and final in 10m air rifle. He beat Hriday Hazarika by 1.9 points in the final after both had shot 633.0 in qualification.

World University championship silver medallist Smit Moradiya was placed third ahead of Umamahesh Maddineni, Niraj Kumar, Arjun Babuta, Surya Pratap Banshtu and former World No.1 Divyansh Singh Panwar. The scores were pretty high for everyone with the least being 631.9, in making the final.

The results: 10m air rifle: Men: 1. Rudrankksh Patil 253.3 (633.0); 2. Hriday Hazarika 251.4 (633.0); 3. Smit Moradiya 229.1 (632.8). **Women: 25m sports pistol:** 1. Simranpreet Kaur Brar 36 (585); 2. Esha Singh 35 (578); 3. Manu Bhaker 31 (587). **50m rifle 3-position:** 1. Sift Kaur Samra 469.8 (595); 2. Shriyanka Sadangi 465.2 (592); 3. Surabhi Bharadwaj 454.2 (592).

INBRIEF

10-man Odisha rallies to hold Punjab in ISL

BISWARANJAN ROUT

A 10-man Odisha held Punjab 1-1 in the ISL in Bhubaneswar on Monday. K.P. Rahul was given the marching orders in the 44th. Petros Giakoumakis made it count as Punjab went ahead soon (45+2). Isak Vanlalruatfela, *in pic*, drew level in the 51st. Odisha staved off the challenge for the remainder of the tie. Odisha stays in seventh place with 26 points from 20 matches, while Punjab remains in ninth with 24 points from 19 games.

Giant-killing Shapovalov clinches ATP Dallas title

Canada's Denis Shapovalov completed a giant-killing run to Dallas Open title in Houston on Sunday, defeating Norway's fifth-ranked Casper Ruud 7-6(5), 6-3 for his third career ATP crown. Unseeded Shapovalov became only the fifth player since 2020 to knock out the three top seeds on the way to an ATP title and just the fourth player since 2009 to beat three top-10 rivals on the way to a 250- or 500-level title.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SCHEDULE

Tuesday: Brest vs PSG *(11.15 p.m.)*, Juventus vs PSV Eindhoven, Manchester City vs Real Madrid, Sporting CP vs Borussia Dortmund *(all matches at 1.30 a.m., Wednesday)*.
Wednesday: Club Brugge vs Atalanta *(11.15 p.m.)*, AS Monaco vs Benfica, Celtic vs Bayern Munich, Feyenoord Rotterdam vs AC Milan *(all matches at 1.30 a.m., Thursday)*.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Quarterfinals, JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.
I-League: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 & 7 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Vidarbha pulls away from TN after an attritional third day

Thakare completes his first five-wicket haul of the season; the home side ends on 169 for five to finish 297 runs in the lead

RANJI TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
NAGPUR

On an attritional day of action where both teams had their moments, Vidarbha tightened its grip on the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Tamil Nadu after taking a commanding 128-run first-innings lead on day three here at the Vidabha Cricket Association Stadium on Monday.

The home team needed just 90 minutes in the morning session to bundle out TN for 225, with medium-pacer Aditya Thakare completing his first five-wicket haul of the season.

In its second essay, Vidarbha ended the day on 169 for five, riding on Yash Rathod's gritty unbeaten half-century (55 batting) to finish 297 runs in the lead.

Gritty effort: Rathod's unbeaten half-century consolidated Vidarbha's position. R.V. MOORTHY

Quick wickets

Earlier, TN resumed at 159 for six and lost two quick wickets when skipper R. Sai Kishore and M. Mohammed perished, playing loose shots to pacer Yash Thakur.

Pradosh Ranjan Paul (48) and R. Sonu Yadav (32) then hit a few boundaries and did their best to take their side closer to Vidarbha's total. Their 49-run stand for the ninth wicket took the southern side past 200 before Pradosh nicked Nachiket Bhute to the cordon. Thakare fittingly completed the formalities, removing Sonu Yadav to secure the crucial first-innings lead for his side.

Disciplined

Needing to strike early to stay alive in the contest, the TN bowlers were much more disciplined and kept picking up wickets at regular intervals. Sai Kishore led the charge, giving a double breakthrough immediately after lunch.

Later, Vijay Shankar struck off the first ball of the third session when he had Karun Nair caught at slip. And when Ajith Ram castled Akshay Wadkar with a slider, Vidarbha was in a spot at 114 for five.

But the cushion of a comfortable lead allowed Harsh Dubey to go for the counterattack and the left-hander started by slog-sweeping Sai Kishore for two sixes to wrest the momentum back. While Dubey was aggressive, Rathod held fort at one end and completed his half-century as the duo forged an unbroken 55-run alliance for the sixth wicket to keep the visitor at bay.

The scores: Vidarbha — 1st innings: 353.

Tamil Nadu — 1st innings: Mohamed Ali b Thakare 4, N. Jagadeesan c Taide b Bhute 22, B. Sai Sudharsan c Yash Thakur b Thakare 7, M. Boopathi Vaishna Kumar c Wadkar b Thakare 0, Vijay Shankar c Wadkar b Thakare 22, C. Andre Siddarth c Taide b Dubey 65, Pradosh Ranjan Paul c Taide b Bhute 48, R. Sai Kishore c Wadkar b Yash Thakur 7, M. Mohammed c Wakhare b Yash Thakur 1, R. Sonu Yadav c Taide b Thakare 32, S. Ajith Ram (not out) 0; Extras (lb-6, nb-1, w-10): 17; Total (in 64.3 overs): 225.

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-36, 3-38, 4-38, 5-133, 6-136, 7-160, 8-170, 9-219.

Vidarbha bowling: Yash Thakur 16-0-78-2, Thakare 16.3-3-34-5, Bhute 15-2-54-2, Dubey 14-1-51-1, Wakhare 3-1-2-0.

Vidarbha — 2nd innings: Atharva Taide c Boopathi b Sonu Yadav 19, Dhruv Shorey b Sai Kishore 20, Danish Malewar c & b Sai Kishore 0, Karun Nair c Boopathi b Vijay Shankar 29, Yash Rathod (batting) 55, Akshay Wadkar b Ajith Ram 8, Harsh Dubey (batting) 29; Extras (b-5, lb-2, w-2): 9; Total (for five wkts. in 62 overs): 169.

Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-40, 3-61, 4-99, 5-114.

Tamil Nadu bowling: Mohammed 13-5-30-0, Sonu Yadav 9-2-19-1, Sai Kishore 16-3-47-2, Vijay Shankar 10-1-20-1, Ajith Ram 8-0-24-1, Mohamed Ali 3-0-13-0, Pradosh 3-0-9-0.

RANJI QUARTERFINALS - DAY 3

At Nagpur: Vidarbha 353 in 121.1 overs & 165/5 in 62 overs (Yash Rathod 55 batting) vs. Tamil Nadu 225 in 64.3 overs (Andre Siddarth 65, Aditya Thakare 5/34).
At Pune: J&K 280 in 95.1 overs & 180/3 in 57 overs (Paras Dogra 73 batting, Kanhaiya Wadhawan 42 batting) vs. Kerala 281 in 85 overs (Jalaj Saxena 67, Salman Nizar 112 not out, Auqib Nabi 6/53).
At Kolkata: Mumbai 315 in 88.2 overs & 278/4 in 67 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 88 batting, Suryakumar Yadav 70, Siddhesh Lad 43) vs. Haryana 301 in 84.5 overs (Ankit Kumar 136, Shardul Thakur 6/58).
At Rajkot: Saurashtra 216 in 72.1 overs & 33/0 in 16 overs vs. Gujarat 511 in 159.1 overs (Manan Hingrajia 83, Jaimeet Patel 103, Urvil Patel 140, Ravi Bishnoi 45, Chirag Jani 4/67, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 5/120).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Punjab moves to 296/4

BENGALURU: Punjab rode on handy contributions to move to 296 for four on the first day of its C.K. Nayudu (under-23) Trophy quarterfinal against Karnataka at Mohali on Monday.

The scores: Punjab 296/4 in 89 overs (Jaskaranvir Paul 61, S. Uday 75, Salil Arora 52, Rahul Kumar 79 n.o.) vs Karnataka.

Match drawn

Pondicherry hung on to salvage a draw against Karnataka in the South Zone under-14 tournament at Puducherry.

The scores: Karnataka 388/9 dec. 85 overs (Rohith Reddy 29, Nitish Arya 157, Saad Rayyan Khan 32, Aaryansinh Chavda 28, Krishna Kumar 67 n.o., Alan Vinay 49) drew with Pondicherry 149 in 44.5 overs (Nithish Kumar 52, Rithik Siva 25, Aaryansinh Chavda 5/22) and 119/7 in 61 overs (Sankalp 26, Purab Soni 5/26).

Akshay sizzles

C.K. Akshay (5/25 and 53 n.o.) helped Neptune CC defeat Jolly Cricketers in the KSCA Group I, Division III tournament.

The scores: RVEC Gymkhana 287/5 in 50 overs (H.S. Sumanth 60, M.A. Adarsh 123 n.o., H.K. Vishwanath 36 n.o.) bt Friends Union (2) 248 in 45.3 overs (V. Saatwik 96, R. Darshan 109, N. Shreyas 3/35, N.S. Shaurya 3/63). Jolly Cricketers 224 in 49.5 overs (Barnadeep Gupta 26, Kushal Katara 30, Abhilash Fernandes 29, K.V. Bharat 59 n.o., Swastik Moolya 39, C.K. Akshay 5/25) lost to Neptune 227/5 in 43.3 overs (Rayan Ahmed 66, N. Bharath 75, C.K. Akshay 53 n.o.).
Jayanagar Cricketers 104 in 28 overs (Pratyush Cyril 26, Faizan Raiz 28, T. Pradeep 3/25, K.C. Cariappa 3/20, Syed Khaja Moinuddin 3/34) lost to Palar 107/4 in 27.1 overs (Rahul Ihjallikar 30 n.o., Anirudha Joshi 39 n.o.).
South End 226/9 in 50 overs (Dhyan Suvarna 39, G. Pradeep 53 n.o., Yathish 68, Sunil Singh 3/42, Prithvi Raj 3/36) bt BEL Colony 174 in 45.5 overs (Mohammad Rayan 52, Vinay Radha 37, Yathish 4/33, V. Akash 5/15).

Easy for Zoza Sports Academy

Zoza Sports Academy whipped Om SAI (Dharwad) 6-1 in the KSHA-BHA 'A' Division hockey league on Monday.

The results: Guru 4 (Venkatesh 11, Ravi Teja 15, Manoj 31, Sandeep 43) bt Royal 1 (Sivaraman 48); Zoza Sports Academy 6 (Suresh Babu 17, M.P. Karthick 21, Sanjay 24, Vicky 39, Akhil 43, Teswin 44) bt Om SAI (Dharwad) 1 (Somanna 37).

HAL posts win

HAL FC edged out Sporting Club Bengaluru 1-0 in the BDFA Super Division football league on Monday.

The results: HAL 1 (Maximinus 79) bt Sporting Club Bengaluru 0; FC Agniputhra 2 (Karthik Govind 21, Azfar Noorani 45) bt BFC 1 (T. Singh 22).

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